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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST, 2013



A festive look at
Holton Road, Barry
Pages 17-20



LLANTWIT MAJOR
celebrates Christmas
Pages 22-24

PORTHCAWL PUPILS 'SERVING' CHARITY!



ABOVE: Porthcawl Comprehensive School was involved in fundraising for 'annual charities week' recently and local photographer Malcolm Nugent captured all the fun! See page 8 for a report and page 9 for more pictures.

Caerau man (35) is remanded in custody

FOLLOWING recent activity, Bridgend's priority policing team has arrested three men from the Maesteg area in connection with an investigation into alleged theft.

As a result of their investigation, Ryan McGuire, 35, from Caerau, Maesteg, has been remanded in custody charged with perverting the course of public justice.

Acting Detective Sergeant Michael Maund of the priority policing team said: "This is an investigation into a serious offence. It will result in the communities of Maesteg and Bridgend benefiting from a co-ordinated approach to targeting suspected criminal activities in the area."

South Wales Police wish to hear from anyone who may have any information relating to this. Anyone who can help, should contact Bridgend police station on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Operation aimed at stopping drug dealers

POLICE in Maesteg and Porthcawl recently held an operation to target suspected drug dealers in the area.

'Operation Hawaii' involved local neighbourhood and response officers executing warrants to tackle drugs supply. Entry was forced into two properties in Nantyllyn and Pontcymmer, and four people were arrested during the day-long operation.

Local Policing Sergeant Mathew Lewis of the Maesteg and Porthcawl Neighbourhood Policing Team, who led the operation, said: "The positive feedback we have received from the community confirms that we have sent out a clear message to those involved in drug dealing that they will not be tolerated."

The warrant executed in Pontcymmer resulted in a 33-year-old man and two women aged 30 and 34 being arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply Class A drugs. They have been released on police bail.

A further arrest was made in Porthcawl when a 43-year-old woman was arrested on suspicion of theft. She has also been released on police bail.

Sergeant Lewis added: "The operation was conducted based on intelligence and information from members of the public, local officers and via Crimestoppers."

"Operation Hawaii will be repeated across the sector on a regular basis."

Anyone with information can contact South Wales Police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE

by Richard Sims

The familiar banner which accompanied Richard's popular, weekly column.

Correspondent passes away

IT is with deep regret that The GEM has to announce the death of our community correspondent for Kenfig Hill and Pyle, Richard Sims, who passed away last Friday (November 15).

Richard was a man who always spoke passionately about the qualities of the community in which he lived, and he was always very keen to record all the good things that happened there.

He had been ill for some time, but it was characteristic of Richard that he played down the extent of his condition - and would apologise (not that it was necessary) on the occasional week when he was unable to complete it.

He was closely involved in the Talbot Community Centre, and believed that it was the type of organisation that could bind a community together.

Richard's columns, The GEM believes, also helped achieve that aim, and he will be sorely missed.

In his dealings with this newspaper he was reliable, dedicated and always a gentleman. The staff at The GEM extend our deepest sympathies to his family.

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Ogmore MP calls for better treatment for 'AS' patients

OGMORE MP Huw Irranca-Davies recently hosted a national patient group in Parliament to call on the Government and regulators to introduce a national standard of care for patients with Ankylosing Spondylitis.

The call to action formed part of the National Ankylosing Spondylitis Society's (NASS) 'AS it is' campaign, which was launched in Parliament at the patient group's annual reception.

NASS is particularly concerned about diagnosis times for AS, which are still hugely inadequate, with the average time until diagnosis at 8.5 years.

Furthermore, as part of the 'AS it is' campaign NASS conducted a number of national surveys which showed that AS patients are not getting access to key areas of care, such as physiotherapy services and employment support.

In particular, Mr Irranca-Davies joined NASS in calling for the introduction of a national standard of care for the treatment of spondyloarthritis (a wider condition of which AS is a part) including both a clinical guideline and spondyloarthritis quality standard.

It is also calling upon NHS England to commit

to more education for general practitioners and those working in primary care on inflammatory back pain.

Mr Irranca-Davies added: "Having AS myself, I know personally how important it is to have early diagnosis and the right long-term treatment to live a full and busy life. That is why I have gone to great lengths to champion the cause of people with AS in various ways, including debates in parliament, meeting with relevant Ministers and a 50-mile charity walk around my Ogmore constituency on my 50th birthday this year.

"This is also why I'm supporting the 'AS it is' campaign, and would encourage other MPs to do so, so we can raise awareness in parliament and government of AS and ultimately deliver early diagnosis and improved quality of treatment."

AS is a painful, progressive form of inflammatory arthritis, which mainly affects the spine but can also affect other joints, tendons and ligaments. It is a condition where some or all of the joints and bones of the spine fuse together and lead to progressive stiffness which may be accompanied by deformity.



ABOVE: Huw Irranca-Davies signs up to the 'AS it is' campaign.

Memorial service to remember a lost little one

FAMILIES grieving the loss of a baby this Christmas are invited to ABMU's special memorial service to remember their little one.

The Baby Memorial Service takes place on Sunday, December 1 at 3pm in the chapel at Singleton Hospital. Hospital Chaplain, Rev Phillip Gwynn said: "Christmas is about children and sharing that first Christmas with a new family member. It is a very painful time if you have lost a much-loved or longed-for baby.

"The memorial service is a time to step away from the Christmas

preparations and reflect, be still and share with other families who carry the same pain.

"It will last no longer than 30 minutes and staff who delivered and cared for your babies will be there to help you. There will be an opportunity to light a candle and leave a personal thought to hopefully ease the pain, just a little. Support services will also be available, delivered with a hug and a warm cup of tea."

For more information about the service, please contact Rev Gwynn on 01792 204476, 07946 351787 or email Phillip@gwynn.org.uk.

Thermometers for the over-60s

BRIDGEND and Porthcawl over-60s can get a free thermometer from their local Age Cymru to help them this winter.

The national older people's charity has produced the bilingual thermometer cards as part of its annual Keep Well this Winter campaign.

Age Cymru's Keep Well this Winter Co-ordinator Rhian Pearce says: "Exposure to cold temperatures can lead to older people suffering from hypothermia and increase the risk of a stroke, heart attack or respiratory illnesses.

"This is why it is so important that older people are able to heat their homes between the

safe range of 65 and 70 degrees Fahrenheit, which is 18 to 21 degrees Celsius."

The thermometers are available from Age Cymru Porthcawl, 37 John Street, Porthcawl, telephone 01656 782372. Stocks are limited so make sure you get one before they run out.

Age Cymru is also running its 'Spread the Warmth' campaign to prevent older people in Wales suffering needlessly this winter. For details about how you can support the 'Spread the Warmth' campaign, visit www.agecymru.org.uk/stw.

Funding fair helps local groups get connected

A TOTAL of 200 voluntary groups and organisations throughout Bridgend county borough looking for funding now or in the future, recently came along to a 'funding fair' in Bridgend Recreation Centre.

Organised by the Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) in partnership with the South East Specialist European Team, groups had the chance to talk to funding organisations.

Funding stalls included: Arts Council Night Out scheme, Bridgend Specialist European Team, Business Wales, Charity Bank, Comic Relief, Communities 2.0 grant scheme, Communities First, Co-op Communities Fund, Princes Trust, Sported, Social Firms Wales, Sport Wales, Unity Trust Bank and Volunteering in Wales Fund.

Free of charge presentations and workshops were also held throughout the day, giving tips for applications to the Big Lottery, Comic

Relief's new strategy, tips for tendering and grant applications, why Halo wants to engage with community organisations in Bridgend county borough and an update on the European Structural Funds 2012-14. Copies of these presentations are available by visiting the funding section of www.bavo.org.uk.

BAVO's chief executive, Heidi Bennett, said: "BAVO was absolutely delighted to be working with Bridgend County Borough Council to bring this funding fair to the area. We hope that community and voluntary groups who came along, were able to widen their knowledge on fundraising, helping them to be successful in bringing in additional funds for local services."

BAVO provides free funding services with specialist funding software and in-house knowledge for voluntary organisations and groups within Bridgend county borough.

For further details, call BAVO on 01656 810400 or email bavo@bavo.org.uk.

Community shop opens in Aberkenfig

THE Storehouse Community Shop at 95 Bridgend Road, Aberkenfig, opened for business on Monday, November 11.

It did so without great fanfare – that is reserved for the official opening on December 3 at 1.30pm, performed by the Archbishop of Wales, The Right Reverend Dr Barry Morgan.

The shop is run by a manager and assistant manager – part time and paid for by a generous donation – and volunteers from the churches of a variety of traditions in the Aberkenfig area working together, and is the result of nearly two years of regular, weekly-attended prayer meetings.

These involve church leaders from Aberkenfig Bible Church, Aberkenfig Church of God, Wesley Methodist, Tondur, Nazareth Baptist Church, Bryncethin, St Roberts Roman Catholic Church, Aberkenfig, Snyrna Baptist Church, Pen-y-fai, The Parish of All Saints Pen-y-Fai, and the Parish of Llansantffraid, Bettws and Aberkenfig.

A spokesman said: "Our aim is that the shop provides a service to the

community in providing good quality second hand clothes at affordable prices, along with books and CDs. The hope is also that money raised will be enough to set up a Christians Against Poverty debt centre.

"This is a charity which provides a free service to support those in debt to help them become debt free. Some 20 to 50 families across the UK become debt free week by week through their efforts.

"We intend too that some funds will be donated to local community charities, local needs and good causes. The shop is in no way set up to make any financial contributions to the various churches to assist their own running costs.

"We would want to acknowledge the help and support in establishing the Storehouse Community Shop of BCBC, the Community Shop in Pontyclun and the Archdiocese of Cardiff, as well as a generous anonymous donor.

"The shop is a place not only to browse for bargains, but for a chat and we will do our best to help with any problems, not least by arranging contact with the most appropriate support service," he added.

Porthcawl Museum makes its plans for Great War centenary

PORTHCAWL Museum has been planning for some time a number of events to mark the centenary of the start of the Great War, which falls next year.

The centenary marks the point where the war to end all wars passes from living memory to written history. We have a duty to ensure that the ultimate sacrifice that so many of our recent forebears made is understood and fully appreciated by those growing up today.

Working with many of the town and borough organisations we are planning a programme of events including exhibitions, talks, film and photographic shows and demonstrations at both the museum and the Y centre, John Street, on Saturday and Sunday, August 2-3, 2014.

We would like to turn John Street back in time to 1914, just as war was declared and the town's volunteers signed up for the military at the Old Police Station. We are asking the John Street traders to dress their shops and staff in the period, and we will assist them in any research required.

Christmas carols

CANTORION Coety, who practice at Gilead Chapel in Coity, are preparing carols for their concert programmes during the Christmas period with a mix of traditional and lesser known compositions.

The choir members have enjoyed learning 'Jesus Christ the Apple Tree' by Elizabeth Poston and 'Angels' Carol' by John Rutter, together with their established selection of Welsh traditional songs.

Cantorion Coety will be performing at Laleston Junior School on November 29 in aid of the Laleston Church Hall Restoration Fund and at Gilead, Coety on December 11 for the local WI, and they will be assisting Gilead Chapel with their annual Christmas carol service.

The choir will be conducted by its musical director, Mrs Eira Paskin and the newly-appointed accompanist, Mr Gareth Waite, will be on the piano.

At the Y Centre, exhibitors will include a number of local history groups.

The Western Front Association, South Wales Police Museum and an amateur radio group who will be broadcasting to the world.

There will also be street theatre and a parade along John Street.

If you think you can help in any way or would like to take part we would be happy to hear from you.

The centenary offers a unique opportunity to come together as a town to honour the lives and bravery of all those who served in the war – both in the military and on the home front.

For more information visit our website www.porthcawlandthegreatwar.com. David Swidenbank, Porthcawl Museum.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL NOVEMBER 28)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
21 Thur	08.11	9.3	20.35	9.1
22 Fri	08.47	9.0	21.06	8.8
23 Sat	09.19	8.7	21.43	8.4
24 Sun	09.58	8.3	22.24	8.0
25 Mon	10.45	7.9	23.19	7.8
26 Tues	11.47	7.7		
27 Wed	00.24	7.5	12.57	7.7
28 Thur	01.37	7.6	14.09	7.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

Autumn fayre helps Blood Bikes Wales

PENCOED WI NEWS

WE would like to thank all the businesses and individuals who supported this year's autumn fayre, especially those of our members who donated items, baked and manned the stalls.

We are giving a donation of £450 to Blood Bikes Wales, so again a big thank you to all who helped.

Our November speaker was Angela Phillips who gave us a very interesting talk about her life in Malaysia. She brought along brightly coloured sarongs and various other Malaysian items.

She explained how her Government helped her to attend Swansea University and after

qualifying, she had to return to Malaysia and work for at least five years. She met her husband at Swansea University, but did not get married until five years later, and she now lives in Rhondda Cynon Taff area and appreciates her life in Wales.

Our Christmas lunch at the Heronston Hotel is all organised with 50 members attending. Our December 10 meeting is our Christmas party.

Margaret Rogers will be giving us an insight into the 2012 Olympics at our meeting on January 14.

We meet at Pencoed Welfare hall on the second Tuesday of the month from 1.45pm to 4pm. For further information, telephone Val on 01656862181 or Pat on 01656860289.

New date set for opening of the Miners' Square project

A PROJECT to create a new public space in Kenfig Hill will be completed later this month – but the official opening has been postponed.

Further to the recent announcement of the opening of Heathbridge Miners' Square, Pyle Community Council has announced the square will be open to the public from November 26, when the final work of planting of shrubs will be done by staff from Marks and Spencer, assisted by children from Mynydd Cynffig Infants School.

A council spokesman

said: "Unfortunately, due to unavoidable circumstances, the official opening and dedication will not take place until the spring of 2014.

"The council will announce the new date of the official opening as soon as it has been arranged, when it is hoped the event will be attended by many of the ex-miners who worked in these mines.

"Heathbridge Miners' Square has been created as a tribute to those who worked and died in the many mines in the area, mines which were the creation of much of Kenfig Hill as we know it today.

"The Heathbridge

Miners' Square is a Pyle Community Council project with additional funding from Bridgend County Borough Council, Marks and Spencer Community Grant and the Awards for All, National Lottery Fund. Pyle Community would also like to thank Mr David Brace OBE of the Dunraven Windows Group for donating a coal dram which he acquired and painstakingly refurbished.

"This development is the first of many projects which Pyle Community Council has in its five year plan, projects covering the whole of the communities of Pyle and Kenfig Hill."



Kate receives her award from Hywel Dda chairman Trevor Purt.

TOP AWARD FOR PA Kate is 'simply indispensable'

WINNING a top award is the icing on the cake for indispensable Princess of Wales Hospital secretary Kate Graham.

Kate has been named the 'Best NHS PA in Wales' for her exemplary work in the hospital's emergency department where she keeps the hectic schedules of no less than five consultants running smoothly.

Not only that, but Kate's home baked cakes are a reliable morale-booster too!

The annual award is organised by the NHS PAs for Excellence Network, set up by a group of senior personal assistants to provide support and development for PAs in the NHS in Wales.

It has around 300 members, making it the largest in Wales and the third in the UK.

The award ceremony took place in Cardiff's Swalec Stadium, with the presentations made by Hywel Dda chief executive Trevor Purt.

Kate was nominated by the emergency department's clinical lead Sarah Spencer, who described her as 'indispensable, professional and the epitome of equanimity'.

Dr Spencer said the five consultants could not value Kate more highly for her professional and personal support, her kindness and for the way she often went that extra mile.

She said: "Kate always has a calm listening ear and makes wonderful cakes for our birthdays, department meetings and whenever she feels morale would benefit from some good home baking."

As well as consistently achieving excellence in work, she said, Kate also juggled a home life that included looking after two young children.

Dr Spencer added: "To do this without ever being discernibly ruffled at work is something to which most full-time working mums can only aspire!"

Kate said: "I have never been put forward for an award before so I was absolutely delighted to win. It's a lovely thing to be recognised for what you do. I love my job and working with such a great bunch of people makes it even nicer."

MAYOR IS ON THE SEARCH FOR COUNTY BOROUGH 'HEROES'

DO you know someone who regularly goes the extra mile for charity, has committed an outstanding act of bravery, put their community on the map, or achieved something special during the last year?

Bridgend county borough's most remarkable citizens can be rewarded for their efforts in the Mayor Citizenship Awards 2013/14, and nominations are now open.

Organised by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), the awards are open to people who live in the county borough, as well as local groups and businesses.

The Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Clive James, said: "The Mayor's Citizenship Awards give us a wonderful chance to tell the rest of the county borough about the amazing things that local people do."

"I'm really looking forward to hearing about the significant and positive impact that local residents have made, and I would invite as many people as possible to send in their nominations."

Last year's worthy winners included two Bryntirion schoolboys who rescued an injured and elderly gentleman, a group of Porthcawl Coastguards who



The Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Clive James.

were honoured for their bravery and contribution to the community, and a number of deserving volunteers.

Visit www.bridgend.gov.uk to download a nomination form and find out more about the awards. The deadline for nominations is Friday, January 24, 2014, and the award winners will be honoured at an event hosted by the Mayor at the Civic Offices in Bridgend in March 2014.

POLICE APPEAL OVER BRACKLA BURGLARY

POLICE in Bridgend are investigating a burglary at a house on Briary Way in Brackla sometime between 6pm and 7.15pm on Tuesday November 5 – Guy Fawkes Night.

Access was gained into the house via a rear patio door and a large quantity of cash, a man's and a woman's Rolex watches, a gold man's bracelet and necklace and a gold Canadian coin were stolen.

Detective constable Lee Duke of

Bridgend CID said: "We are appealing to anyone who may have seen anything suspicious in the area of Briary Way on Guy Fawkes Night around the time in question.

"We also want to hear from anyone who may have been offered any of the gold jewellery, watches or the Canadian coin."

Anyone with any information concerning this burglary is asked to contact Bridgend CID on 101 or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 and quote reference 62130349561.

Festive season at Maesteg Market

VISITORS to Maesteg Market can enjoy a special craft and food market this weekend, while an outdoor ice rink will bring an extra sprinkling of magic to the town this festive season.

On Saturday, November 23, shoppers can stock up on treats ready for the holiday season at the craft and food market between 9am and 5pm.

Extra stalls will be joining the existing market traders for the day, with plenty of stocking fillers and culinary delights on offer.

Then, from December 7–14, an ice rink will be built in Maesteg market square and it will be open daily between 1pm and 7pm, with admission costing £3 for adults, £2 for children or £7 for a family ticket (two adults and two children). Group bookings can also be made for groups of 15 people or

more at a cost of £1 per person. For group bookings please call 02920 590334.

After undergoing a £2.5 million revamp, Maesteg's new market features 13 modern units built around a new market square. Links with the nearby bus station have been improved and a piece of public art is being installed.

Coun Phil White, BCBC cabinet member for communities, said: "These two events offer a perfect excuse to start your Christmas shopping nice and early at Maesteg Market.

There should be a great atmosphere at the craft and food market this weekend, while the ice rink will hopefully attract large numbers of families to take a look at the brand new market and everything that is available there, and help encourage people to shop locally this Christmas."

The £2.5 million Maesteg Market has been funded by the European Regional

Development Fund, the Welsh Government's Western Valleys Strategic Regeneration Area Fund and BCBC.

Counselling service is set to expand

TY ELIS Counselling in Porthcawl has just launched its Diploma in Therapeutic Counselling and is now receiving applications for the first intake of students, starting in February 2014.

Through the diploma, the charity will train the next generation of counsellors and increase its ability to work with people who need counselling, but are unable to afford it.

Michele Ryan, course co-ordinator at Ty Elis, said: "We are delighted to be offering our very own diploma which combines a strong theoretical grounding in counselling with the opportunity to accumulate 100 hours of supervised practice."

Ty Elis has received grant funding to build a new training room at the rear of the property to support this project. Carly McCreesh, economy officer at Bridgend County Borough Council, said: "In these tougher financial times, charities such as Ty Elis are seeing an increased demand for their services.

"It is positive to see the voluntary sector thinking creatively and innovatively about how it can expand and sustain its core services through maximising income potential by trading as a social enterprise."

Heidi Bennett, chief executive of Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations, which has assisted Ty Elis for a number of years, added: "It is high time that the value of the service Ty Elis provides is properly recognised, and funders are now supporting and investing in its growth."

She also paid tribute to the many volunteers who have given up their time to help people in need, to train counsellors and to keep the much-needed service running.

Ty Elis has over 30 volunteer counsellors and psychotherapists and works with clients from across south Wales. Ty Elis believes that there should be no barrier to people receiving counselling and psychotherapy if an individual is ready to take steps to improve their personal well-being. Clients are asked only to make a voluntary confidential donation according to their means.

GOING to a church school could be an "unrealistic dream" for many if proposals to stop funding pupil transport go ahead.

The Rev Edwin Counsell, education advisor for the Church in Wales, is warning that families would be denied the chance to send their children to a church school and that church schools themselves would be seriously disadvantaged by local councils withdrawing funds for school buses.

So far one council, Neath Port Talbot, has already decided to withdraw free transport for secondary school pupils who go to a faith school. Two others, Bridgend and Conwy, are also considering the measure.

A public consultation is due to begin in Bridgend next month about proposals to save the authority more than half a million pounds a year.

In Flintshire, the council has also decided to withdraw the funding unless pupils can prove their beliefs with a baptism certificate.

Wrexham council has withdrawn funding for free transport for all schools that are not the closest to where they live.

There are 162 Church in Wales schools, including three secondary schools and one secondary school, which is a joint Church in Wales and Catholic school.

Rev Counsell said: "I am deeply concerned that this short-sighted attempt to save money will have a huge impact on the



Rev Edwin Counsell.

ability of parents in Wales to make an informed choice to send their children to a church school.

"In the longer term, decisions like this could seriously disadvantage the church school sector.

"Church in Wales schools are firmly established within the education system. Unfortunately, we can't provide a church school in every community, so children may have to travel a little further if

their families make that choice. The Learner Travel Measure (2008) encourages local authorities to make transport available to the nearest suitable school to a pupil's home, with Welsh medium and denominational schools available as realistic choices.

"The measure asks that denominational provision should be a realistic choice; but these proposals will make it an unrealistic dream for many parents seeking the best for their children.

"The proposals that are starting to come forward from some local authorities are trying to use that piece of legislation in a way that was never intended. Yes, it is at their discretion to transport children to church schools, but there is a clear expectation that they should go the extra mile for all children."

IT techie heads for national final

A COMPUTER whizz from Bridgend, Joe Richardson, has made it into the WorldSkills UK final at the Skills Show in Birmingham.

The 19-year-old will now compete to become the best in the UK as students show their skills in a range of occupations, from carpentry and reflexology to accounting and welding.

Joe works as a technician at Microsoft IT in Bridgend.

Wales' 59 finalists earned their place at the

UK event, which took place at Birmingham's NEC, after battling it out against peers in their field.

Backed by the Welsh Government, through the European Social Fund, Skills Competitions Wales promotes the importance of developing a highly-skilled workforce, aiming to boost high level skills in Wales.

Winners of the competition in Birmingham may have the chance to go on to compete on a world stage in Brazil in 2015.

For more information, go to www.worldskillsuk.org

Council seeks partner organisation to run Bryngarw House

AN exciting future could be in store for one of Bridgend county borough's key visitor attractions after cabinet members agreed proposals to seek a partner organisation to manage and operate Bryngarw House.

Coun Lyn Morgan, Bridgend county borough council cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "At the gateway to the Garw Valley, Bryngarw House is already widely regarded as one of the county borough's tourism jewels and is central to our tourism strategy.

"But we feel that there is much potential to provide even more for visitors and to achieve these ambitions we need to determine a new way of running Bryngarw House in the long-term.

"The council currently provides an annual subsidy to support running costs, and although this figure has fallen from over £200,000 to £56,000 per year, the current budget situation is such that we need to consider options for the future.

"In order to provide a visitor experience fit for the 21st century, and deliver the savings that we require as a local authority, we are seeking a partner organisation that shares our vision for Bryngarw House but has the scope and freedom to act in a more commercial way."

Coun Morgan added: "The partnership arrangement that we have in place for the running of local leisure centres has resulted in significant improvements for customers, with the facilities at the

Bridgend Recreation Centre being completely transformed.

"It is hoped that entering into a partnership arrangement for Bryngarw House could lead to similar improvements and further establish Bryngarw House and Country Park as one of the most popular local places to visit for a day out, wedding, event or overnight stay."

The council says it is keen to enter into a partnership rather than sell Bryngarw House as a freehold as it would reduce any risk of the house falling into disrepair.

It is proposed that a partnership agreement is offered on a two-year basis with an option to extend for a further period of time, and the additional operation and management of Bryngarw Park will also be treated as a further option.

Helping children in need!



Staff and customers at the Coast Salon in St Bride's Major dressed up to raise money last Friday (November 15) for Children in Need. (Photograph by Frank Shipton).

Great work of Velindre Hospital

COYCHURCH WI NEWS

PRESIDENT Sandra Davies welcomed everyone present along with guests Linda Caldey, Ann Davies, and Mr Andrew Morris representing Velindre Hospital.

The meeting commenced with a cheque presentation to Mr Morris for the sum of £700; this magnificent donation being the proceeds of the recent 'super concert' organised by the Coychurch Ladies (friends of WI).

Mr Morris gave a vote of thanks and spoke of the ongoing and much needed research and how Velindre Hospital was a centre of excellence.

Further business of the evening included: Details of the GFWI Carol Service and Banner Parade on December 2, also of the shopping trip to Carmarthen with afternoon tea in the Towers Hotel, Briton Ferry on November 23.

The craft afternoons will continue every Wednesday afternoon from 1pm-2.30pm in the Williams Memorial Hall until the end of December with a view to continuing the sessions in the New Year if there is enough interest.

Please try to use the support of the volunteers' expertise to learn a new skill and socialise; each session costs just £1.

Tickets for the show *Fiddler on the Roof* have been booked.

Arrangements are in hand to deliver the Operation Christmas Child gift boxes to the depot in Treforest.

Coychurch WI gained

second place for recruiting new members and won £50.

The menu choices are now available for the January night out.

A thank you card was read out received from Sandra Rees.

Members were informed of four proposed resolutions to be voted on in 2014.

The guest speaker Pat Johnson of Colwinston spoke of her hobby, felt making, that she makes in her garden shed. Her passion has become an obsession and she explained the process and procedure in making the colourful material that she produces; this usually takes two to three days.

The material in turn is then made into various garments and a varied selection was brought along from jackets to jewellery. Pat's 13-year fascinating hobby is still "magic to her" and is mainly created in her garden shed.

For further information on events please contact Sandra Davidson on 01656 669232.

The next meeting will include the Christmas bazaar and lunch to be held on December 3 at 1.30pm in the Williams Memorial Hall. Guests are welcome to attend the bazaar.

Members please remember to bring along a plate, a dish, cutlery, a glass and your favourite tittle.

JJ

Housing grant seeks to boost town centre

MORE affordable housing may soon be available in Bridgend town centre, while elderly residents could feel safer at home, thanks to two new grants being introduced by Bridgend County Borough Council.

Cabinet members have approved a new 'Homes in Town Grant' which business owners could use towards turning any vacant space above their premises into residential accommodation.

Up to £10,000 will be available to help fund external work, such as creating a new separate entrance, while a maximum of £30,000 can be put towards the costs of the interior work involved in converting unused space into a home.

It is hoped that a number of local businesses will take up the new grant.

Coun Phil White said:

"Many properties in Bridgend town centre have vacant, redundant space which could be brought back into use for residential purposes and

be a big boost for the overall regeneration of the town.

"This would help to create more vibrancy in the town centre, with a community of people working, living and shopping there, as well as providing much needed affordable housing."

The announcement of the new grant comes as Bridgend County Borough Council prepares to submit a bid for £33m worth of funding from Welsh Government's new 'Vibrant and Viable Places' scheme to transform Bridgend town centre, and turning empty premises into residential homes is central to the council's plans.

A second new grant that is being introduced is the 'Healthy Homes Assistance', which can provide up to £350 for frail elderly people aged over 75 who require small works to be carried out in their homes which could help to mitigate potential trips and accidents.

Further details about these housing grants and others can be found online at www.bridgend.gov.uk.

'MEN ALOUD' ARE EAGERLY ANTICIPATED

THE November meeting of Mynydd Cynffig WI took place in Pyle and Kenfig church hall.

The meeting was chaired by our president Marjorie Goode and the minutes read by Enid Rymer.

Guest speaker was Lorraine Rudd, and the topic was 'Facial Demonstration' which was very interesting.

She was a lady of many talents, doing a full range of therapies.

She also had a very large garden which was open to the public, so we might have found a day trip for our calendar for next year!

One of our members Mrs Joyce Prag was presented with a certificate for winning a scrabble competition in

Pencoed.

Christmas is almost upon us. Our Christmas dinner is organised and the menu chosen (can't wait).

We have also arranged our Christmas party, pass the parcel as always (we are still children at heart).

Our trip to St Davids Hall to listen to Men Aloud is eagerly awaited and almost upon us.

The meeting was brought to a conclusion with tea and biscuits.

The next meeting on December 10 is our Christmas party so we wish every one a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to meeting new members in 2014

The 'Touched by Cancer' annual sponsored walk



LEFT: Some of the younger walkers saw the event as an opportunity to try out some Halloween costumes.

THE threat of high winds and heavy rain didn't prevent over 200 people turning out to support the Touched by Cancer sponsored walk at Kenfig Nature Reserve on Saturday, October 26.

The walk was approximately three miles over level terrain, led by David Carrington, the reserve warden, who also ensured that the centre remained open all day for the benefit of the walkers and organisers.

The event was opened by the Mayor and Mayoress of Bridgend, Coun Clive James and his wife Pauline, along with local paralympian Paul Davies.

They were accompanied by Ysgol Y Ferch o'r Sger pupils singing a medley of animated songs to kick off the walk.

A number of stalls were positioned outside the reserve centre, in a marquee supplied and erected by Jeff Dower of the Hi-Tide, Portcawl, and Gareth Maund of the Prince of Wales, Kenfig.

Gareth also donated the hog roast which was sold to the walkers to raise more funds for the cause, and the bread rolls came from Warburtons.

Rayners Opticians, Pyle, handed out eyecare packs including bottles of water to the walkers, and their staff also baked and sold lots of beautiful cakes to raise funds.

David Brace of Braceys and Dunraven

Final preparations are being made for the forthcoming Christmas fayre at Trinity Church Hall tomorrow, Friday, November 22.

The next meeting is on Thursday, December 12 and will be a party/supper evening with the drama group providing some entertainment. Anyone wishing to join us is very welcome.

Windows, supported with a donation and a very generous auction prize.

There are so many people who gave their time and donated items for the raffle, auction, to run stalls, and others who stood in as marshals and made sure that the event ran smoothly.

It would be impossible to name all of them, but their contribution was hugely appreciated by the organisers.

We are on track to equal the amounts raised in previous years, which is good news for Sandville, LATCH, Velindre Hospital and Macmillan as the monies raised will be shared out amongst them early in the new year. Could you please hand in any outstanding sponsorship to Coun Megan Butcher, or The Community Hub, Heol Llan, North Cornelly as soon as possible. Thank you.

Adrian Morgan, CADDT

David Brace of Braceys and Dunraven

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LOCAL AM'S PLEA FOR MORE RESPECT FOR SHOP WORKERS



Janice Gregory AM joins USDAW activists at the event in the National Assembly.

JANICE GREGORY AM has backed Usdaw, the shopworkers' trade union, at the launch in the Assembly of its annual 'Respect for Shopworkers Week'.

This year's campaign is focused on the need for a stronger law to protect shopworkers against violence and abuse.

The union is also highlighting the under-reporting of attacks with one in six not being reported by shopworkers to management or the police.

Udaw divisional officer Nick Ireland said: "It's a sad fact that every minute of every day a shopworker somewhere is assaulted, threatened or abused."

"Respect for Shopworkers Week is a great opportunity for retail staff to talk to the public about these problems and seek their support in saying that there is never an excuse for attacks on them."

AM opposes plan for out-of-town shops near Maesteg

SHADOW Welsh regeneration minister Byron Davies AM is to oppose plans to build shops on the former Revlon and Silent Channel factory sites in Maesteg.

Mr Davies, who is a Welsh Conservative regional AM for South Wales West, said he will object to the retail element of a planning application submitted for the former factory sites.

The scheme includes housing, retail and employment use. A pub and restaurants are also proposed.

Mr Davies, who campaigned for the Revlon end of the site to be cleared after its owners left it partially demolished, said that he was pleased something was being done with this land at last.

"I have no quarrel with the plans for 125 new homes or for employment units to be provided," he said.

"However, I will not support plans to build shops here. There would not be enough business from 125 new houses to justify even one convenience store, but the plans state that they want to build both food and non-food retail outlets."

"This would imply that the shops will be destination stores which will draw the life blood away from Maesteg town centre."

"At this moment, there are a dozen empty shops there, plus some empty stalls at the new outdoor market. And that does not include the shops which have been converted recently into dental surgeries, hairdressers, tanning and nail salons and take-aways."

"The retail base in Maesteg is shrinking and shopper choice is diminishing as shops have closed. Anything which takes more trade away from the town centre must be resisted at all costs."

"What was the point of the council spending more than £2m revamping the market if business is to be drawn more than a mile from the town to this former factory site?"

"Yes to the houses and yes to the factory units. But no to the shops."

"Maesteg town centre is already ringed by supermarkets and any plans to site one on this out-of-town site must be fought. It would be another blow to a town centre which is struggling to survive."

"I will be writing to planners in Bridgend to object to these proposals. I also have doubts about the proposals for a new pub on this site. There are already too many closed pubs in the town while others struggle on."

The application has been lodged by the Pontardawe Coal and Metals Company which owns part of the site. The rest is owned by BCBC.

'Too many communities have no Welsh school'

I WOULD like to thank Suzy Davies AM for highlighting the problems of Welsh medium education in Bridgend.

As she says, no survey of parental choice has yet been completed, after more than three years of promises.

However, when considering the demand for Welsh-medium education, Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) needs to take into account the distances that children, at the tender age of five or

even less, must travel to school.

Past experience has shown time and time again, that where a Welsh-medium school has been established within a local community, demand has been overwhelming, and it is not long before it is full.

Distance to school is a main factor for any parent making a choice of school. No one wants their child to have to travel long distances.

However, distance and travel times are currently hindering parents from having true parity of choice for the educa-

tion of their child.

Currently, there is no local Welsh-medium provision in Porthcawl, Pencoed, Coychurch, the Ogmore Valley or in the south west of Bridgend (i.e. Laleston and Broadlands). Perhaps the worst example is Nantymoel, where children are expected to travel down the Ogmore Valley and then back up the Garw to Pontycymer.

Bettws is only slightly nearer, but Bettws is not in the Garw Valley and would involve the vast majority of its pupils being bussed to school, even those from Pontycymer.

The School Standards Act (Wales) 2013 now places an expectation on local authorities to create demand and not just cater for it. This is a fundamental shift in role which BCBC needs to recognise and proactively execute.

For BCBC to say that there are surplus places merely means that the places are in the wrong place. Bridgend needs to follow Cardiff's example in providing truly local Welsh-medium education and so give parents a real choice.

Lisa Wilson, North Cornelly.

Support offered to sporting hopefuls

HALO Leisure and Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) are inviting applications to the Halo Sport Foundation scheme.

The Foundation (run in conjunction with the national GLL Sport Foundation and supported by Sport Wales) gives ambitious sportsmen, women and children in the borough, support for their future, and offers thousands of pounds worth of funding and free training opportunities to local people (of all ages).

"As a not-for-profit organisation and registered charity, we are delighted to be able to offer support through the sport foundation for another year," said Paul Whapham, Halo's community partnership manager.

The Foundation is currently supporting 66 local sports people (able bodied and disabled) across a variety of sports including triathlon, swimming, shooting, gymnastics, table tennis, judo, rugby, waterpolo, netball, basketball, taekwondo, athletics, rowing, surfing, canoeing, squash, tennis and football.

They use Halo gyms,

group exercise classes, pools, racket sports courts and indoor and outdoor sports pitches to keep fit and prepare for their next competitive event.

Rising local sporting stars have until February 20, 2014, to apply. Applications open on December 20, 2013. Application forms and supporting information can be found on Halo website at www.haloleisure.org.uk/sportfoundation.

Coun Lyn Morgan, cabinet member for wellbeing at BCBC said: "The sport foundation is about us working together to create a lasting legacy of London 2012 in our community. Bridgend county borough has a strong history of producing Olympic and Paralympic athletes and this foundation will support local athletes in reaching their potential through training and funding opportunities".

Poetry evening in Porthcawl

TO mark the writer Harri Gwynn's centenary, Robert Minihinnick offers a reading of his translation of the disturbing poem 'Y Creadur' (The Creature) on November 29, 8pm, in the Green Room, above SUSSSED, James Street, Porthcawl.

This will be followed by an open mic for local writers.

Minihinnick said: "The way I've translated Harri Gwynn stresses his ability to create characters in his poetry. The people I've depicted might be seen as soap opera archetypes. The author makes a gallery of them."

Harri Gwynn was a writer on a nightly news programme before he became famous in Wales, and there is a journalistic element to his poetry.

"For me, translation provides an opportunity to remix or rescue poems I find intriguing. "Y Creadur" is one of the most shocking poems I have ever encountered."

For more details: Sustainable Wales 01656 783962 / 773627 or <www.sustainable-wales.org>

A welcome at Pencoed school

STAFF and pupils at Pencoed Comprehensive look forward to welcoming guests to the school's Christmas fair on Friday, December 13, and the Christmas concert on Tuesday, December 17.

The Christmas fair is organised annually by year-12 pupils as part of their Welsh Baccalaureate qualification.

The pupils spend weeks arranging all the different stalls, ensuring that the fair is as varied and attractive as possible.

The fair is held in the school's sports hall, with all the money raised going to charity. For more information, telephone the school on

01656 867100.

Another excellent event is the Christmas concert at Salem Chapel, Coychurch Road, Pencoed, at 7pm on December 17. The performances of our pupils at this concert are very much appreciated by the audience.

On the same day, senior citizens are invited to come along to a Christmas dinner in the school's canteen at 12pm. Already attending are members of the school's senior citizens club and the Llanharan OAP Club, but we would always welcome more guests. The Christmas dinner is followed by a shorter version of the Christmas concert in Salem Chapel, starting at approximately 1pm.

To book a place, call Linda Harpwood on 01656 867106.

LH

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bridgend-today.co.uk

WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT, AND WHERE?

New Look Group plc - New Look 7 and 7A Caroline Street, Bridgend - internally illuminated pod and projecting signs. Mrs A Stuckey - Bryn Seion Chapel, Coychurch Road, Pencoed, Bridgend - convert semi-detached chapel into four bedroom dwelling with off-road parking space.

Mr Matt Bacon - 3 Llwyn Coch, Broadlands, Bridgend - garage conversion with Juliet balcony. Mr Lee Elliott - 14 Wern Fawr, Pencoed, Bridgend - single storey rear extension. Miss Hayley Davies - 25 Bryn Onnen, Kenfig Hill - two storey extension to north end gable. Mr Boyd Davies - Lime Kiln Yard, Heol Y Splott, South

Cornelly, Bridgend - amend condition no 2 of consent P/11/409/FUL relating to materials to be recycled. DWE Architecture - Corner House Inn, Llangynwyd, Maesteg - demolition of single storey building comprising redundant public toilets. Mr T Howe - 5 Swn Y Nant, Pencoed - single storey extension to rear.

Mrs Delith Ladbroke - Highwinds, 9 Danygraig Avenue, Porthcawl - extension and remodelling of existing property to remove existing balconies and create additional space. Mrs Ray Richards - 1 Caroline Avenue, North Cornelly, Bridgend - demolish existing

bungalow and replace with dormer.

Mr MR Howells - Ffynon Deri, 2 Nant Y Wenol, Broadlands, Bridgend - single storey garage. Mr Gareth Richards - Land, part of Brynlefrith Farm, Maesteg, Bridgend - hardstanding area proposed agricultural building for water fodder/machinery. Mr and Mrs Mike and Linda Mordecai - Land adjacent to All Saints Way, Penyfai - double domestic garage and associated driveway access.

Mr Julian Nott - 44 Queen Street, Brynmenyn, Bridgend - two storey extension to rear.

Cabo Roche march on in division two

IT was fairly average scoring on Monday, November 11, with only a couple in the 50s, n a m e l y Llangewydd Arms (54) at Tondur Railway Club, who made 38, and Crown Inn B, who won 52-29 against Pyle RFC.

There was a good away win by Mackworth Arms, who came away 48-34 winners from Laleston Inn A. Crown Inn A were in good shape at Swan Nomads, winning 45-42 to match their B team's triumph.

Another away team, Coychurch Wanderers, beat Pheasant Poachers 48-42 and the other Pheasant side, the Gamekeepers, went down by 43-40 away to Oldcastle B.

Finally, Bush Kangaroos had the misfortune to meet second division leaders Cabo

Roche in their best form and the leaders won 47-28.

Here are your four specials:

1. In Ancient Rome, the father of Caesar was allegedly Julius Caesar but who was his mother?

2. Which aviation first was achieved by Jaques Garnerin in 1797, from a balloon?

3. Which player did Bjorn Borg defeat in two of his five Wimbledon singles triumphs?

4. On an alphabetical list of the 32 boroughs of Greater London, which one comes last.

A Rudge (for Quiz League)

Answers:
1. Cleopatra
2. First parachute jump
3. Jimmy Connors
4. Westminster.

'BUYING HER LIFE' AT £3,000 PER MONTH! Former midwife Beth forced to pay for cancer drug that's free in England!

THE CAMPAIGN arguing that Beth Margetson of Porthcawl should receive the vital life-extending drug, Afinitor, is gathering pace and the next major event is a fundraiser on Tuesday, November 26 in the Hi-Tide.

Beth has breast cancer, and local campaigners have been incensed that she is being denied a drug that is available in England.

Caroline Sarll, a close friend of Beth, has been at the emotional heart of the campaign, and has written this personal account of the latest developments:

'Slipping Through My Fingers' is one of the tracks that Miss Tina's ballet girls will be dancing to, clad in floaty, white gowns in the Hi-Tide's fundraising variety concert, in aid of Porthcawl cancer patient Beth Margetson, next Tuesday evening.

Although the ABBA-composed song, sung by Meryl Streep in the film *Mamma Mia*, is about a young girl growing up – and away – from her mother, the lyrics will have an added poignancy for Beth and her family, and for all those who are supporting her in her draining, ongoing battle to obtain the life-extending drug, which the ABMU Local Health Board has so far refused her.

Also performing will be Beth's own daughter, 15-year-old Ffion, who plans to sing 'I Dreamed A Dream' from *Les Misérables*. There will not be a dry eye in the house.

We are hoping to raise sufficient funds that evening to buy Beth a

month of the drug she is now funding herself, at a cost of over £3,000 for a four-week course – £68,000 in total.

All of the tickets have now been sold (but we can still squeeze in a few extra!) and people have donated amazing prizes for both the raffle and the auction.

Thank you to everyone for your outstanding generosity and to the Hi-Tide for their benevolence and support.

One donor, the kitchen company, Lakeland, sent me a lovely email along with their gift of a luxury hamper, wishing us well for the evening and adding that they hoped their offering would "help buy Beth some time".

'Buying time' Never has a phrase had more resonance. We use these two words so lightly in everyday life, in routine social, business and legal contexts, to name but a few.

But they are usually deployed figuratively: sending a text or short email instead of engaging in a long phone or face-to-face conversation 'buys' you some extra time.

Telling a white lie to stall your employer when responding to a job offer you are unsure about does the same.

Postponing a court hearing can give both the prosecution and defence teams valuable time to re-think their case. But in these instances, no money is actually exchanged.

Sadly, this has not been Beth's experience. ABMU's refusal to fund her treatment has meant, quite literally, that she is

having to buy her own time, at the cost outlined here and, more importantly, at great personal and emotional cost to her and to her family.

It is deeply ironic that Beth, a former midwife and now a teacher, who has spent her life giving to others, has been put in this unenviable and shocking position.

No-one should have to buy his or her own life.

Certainly not according to some inhumane, budget-driven criteria, which deems one patient more worthy than another. Beth sent me the following email today:

"Why do I find myself in this situation? I am not a bad person and have always given more than I have ever received, although the bread I have cast upon the water is now coming back to me in abundance and I am grateful for that."

"The people of this community are with me and helping me. They are the surrogate government. They are the Mark Drakeford and Carwyn Jones of the county."

"They are filling in the chasm that is sub-standard, inadequate care in Wales. They are doing what our politicians cannot or will not do."

"People of Wales – stand up and be counted! Tell 'them' we have had enough of having the highest cancer mortality rate in Europe. Tell 'them' we don't want token gestures."

"Enough is enough. We, the public, want the same care that 'they' would demand for their own families. Are we

not worth the same?

"Are our lives not as important? Obviously not. Come on Wales. Stop being grateful for the scraps of care we are thrown, for buying our silence with free prescriptions and promises that things have never been better."

"Because, do you know what? We are living in a socially constructed Third World, a world where we have what 'they' think we deserve."

"We deserve so much more."

If you agree that Beth deserves more, please lobby your AMS and MPs and sign the forthcoming online petition that will soon be available via the Afinitor Facebook page.

There is little doubt that Beth has the people of Porthcawl, and of the whole of Wales, behind her and that people are giving not only of their time to help, but of their hard-earned money to try and rectify this inequity.

One anonymous donor contributed £5,000 recently and fundraising activities continue across Wales, to ease the financial burden Beth and her family are facing. But to have to battle like this when you are already unwell, is both exhausting and demeaning.

The Individual Patient Funding Request Policy states that the decision making process in cases like Beth's must be "rational and logical".

Another related NHS document is unequivocal that in addressing cases like Beth's, the NHS must observe its

core values, including that which "puts the citizen at the heart of everything" and "focuses on their (the patient's) needs and experiences".

On both these points, it would appear that ABMU has not acted in accordance with these policies and, crucially, that it has let Beth and her family down at a time when they need help most.

This week in the Senedd, Conservative regional AM for South Wales West, Byron Davies, will be putting a question to Health Minister, Mark Drakeford, on Beth's behalf.

We await his response eagerly. In the meantime, we will all be watching the girls dance next week and listening to Ffion singing for her mum and we will ponder the relevance of those oft-heard lyrics.

But it's no good dreaming of "a time when men were kind" and "when hope was high and life worth living". For Beth, that has to become a reality. Right now.

What do GEM readers think about Beth's plight? Please write to us at the address on page 2 to have your say and we will try and print all your letters for Beth.

New mum Kerry climbs high to raise her team's profile

NEWS FROM BRIDGEND DISABLED FOOTBALL CLUB

EARLIER this month, Kerry Hall, the team manager of the Bridgend Disabled Football Club (BDFC) completed a fundraising challenge – only eight weeks after giving birth.

A mother of three young children, Kelly completed a 351-foot wall climb at Dynamic Rock – because her planned skydive had been postponed for three weeks in a row due to bad weather.

Instead, she climbed the height of the Meridian Tower, the tallest building in Wales to raise money for her disabled football team to compete at the Jersey Games, which took place

Tory AM supports Beth's cancer drug campaign

REGIONAL AM Byron Davies has urged health chiefs to reconsider their decision to refuse funding for a Porthcawl woman to receive a cancer drug that will extend her life.

Mr Davies, who is a Welsh Conservative regional AM for South Wales West, has told Paul Roberts, chief executive of ABMU health board, that there is dramatic new evidence available to justify allowing Beth Margetson of Nottage to treat the widespread cancer she is suffering.

Mr Davies went on: "Beth Margetson is a very brave woman who is fighting this terrible disease with every fibre of her being. She deserves a helping hand from the Welsh NHS in her hour of need. She has a 15-year-old daughter, Ffion, who wants her mother for as long as possible."

"The awful thing is that if Beth lived in England she would have this drug for free as she meets all seven criteria laid down by the English Cancer Drugs Fund."

"The shame is that we in Wales do not have such a fund and that people like Beth have to beg for help and raise money from friends and family."

"We are operating a second rate health service in Wales at the moment and that's simply not good enough."

An ABM spokeswoman said: "Like all health boards and trusts in Wales, ABM follows the All Wales Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) policy, and have an IPFR panel which meets fortnightly to con-

sider each case on its own merit.

"This panel is chaired by a doctor, and includes other clinicians, including consultants, a pharmacist and a GP."

"The health board's chief executive is not part of the panel. He does not have any influence over the decisions of the panel, nor can he change the outcome or reopen any IPFR."

"The decision of the panel can only be appealed using the appeals process."

"The IPFR appeals panel tests if the IPFR panel itself followed the All Wales IPFR policy when making their decision on a particular request."

"The appeals panel cannot overturn the decision of the IPFR panel and makes their decision based on the evidence provided at the time it meets."

"If at any point further evidence becomes available to support the patient's IPFR, the patient's clinician can submit a new funding request to the health board's IPFR panel," the spokeswoman added.

Silver Band's busy Christmas

OGMORE Valley Silver Band has had a busy year representing the valley and Bridgend in a number of national and local contests.

Some of the highlights were being placed third in Wales at the regional contest in Swansea, and third at Wychaeon Entertainment contest.

Over the Christmas period, Ogmogre Valley will be out and about carolling everyone into the festive period, so why not come and say hello, listen and join us in a few mince pies!

Visit www.ogmore-band.co.uk for all contact details.

Our list of engage-

ments includes Bridgend Christmas lights, and a Victorian Christmas at Bryngarw House.

This year, the beginners' band's first concert is at the Ogmogre Valley Christmas fayre on November 30 at Ogmogre Life Centre.

We are always in need of new players. Our newly-established training band is available for anyone (old and young) who fancies learning a brass instrument or gently getting back into an old hobby.

Visit www.ogmore-band.co.uk for all contact details.

Alice Jones

Candidate forced to withdraw from by-election

THE Conservative candidate in a Porthcawl Town Council by-election has been forced to withdraw on health grounds.

The Bridgend Conservative Association issued a statement which said: "Former town mayor Mary Emmet Lewis is currently in hospital undergoing tests and has been advised by her doctors to take no part in the forthcoming by-election campaign for Porthcawl West Central."

"It is now too late for her to legally withdraw from the election and her name will appear on the ballot papers. We are advising electors not to vote for her, as she will not be taking her seat even if she were to be elected."

"The other candidates in the election have been informed and all parties have expressed their good wishes for her full recovery."

MEMBERS JOIN UK CHARITY CAMPAIGN

A 'HEAT of the UK' simultaneous pairs for Children In Need was recently held in the club.

In this type of event, the same deals are played at all competing clubs (over 1,500 pairs for the Thursday heat alone). The event is then scored centrally, with the proceeds going to the national CIN campaign.

The winners in the club were Pat Haworth and Gary Williams, but when scored nationally, the best placed club pair was John Beard and Tony Haworth (currently placed 13th nationally).

Other recent club night – Keith Davison and Tony

PORHCRAWL BRIDGE CLUB

results from the Porthcawl Bridge Club are:

Saturday, November 2: First – Liam Sheridan and Tony Haworth; second – Peter and Sandie Jenkins.

Monday, November 4: First – Gary Williams and Tony Haworth; second – Janet Richards and Pat Cogbill.

Thursday, November 7: First – Roger Plant and Terry Dolan; second – Gary Williams and Pat Haworth.

Saturday, November 9: First

Haworth; second – Trish Saunders and Roger Draper.

Monday, November 11: First – Janet Richards and Tony Haworth; second – Peter and Sandie Jenkins.

Thursday, November 14: Children In Need Pairs: First – Gary Williams and Pat Haworth; second – John Beard and Tony Haworth.

The club meets three times a week – Saturday and Thursday at the Awel-y-Mor centre, and Monday at the Glamorgan Holiday Hotel at 7pm–10.15pm. Visitors welcome at any time. To contact the club, call secretary Trish on 01656 785794.

TH

LOCAL VOLUNTEERS PRAISED IN BAVO AWARD PRESENTATION CEREMONY



The winners and the guests are pictured at St Mary's Golf and Country Club.

THE Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) recently hosted Bridgend County Borough volunteer achievement awards at St Mary's Hotel, Golf and Country Club in Pencoeed.

The ceremony was compered by Mark Franklyn from Bridge FM with special guests, Janice Gregory AM, Rory McLaggan, High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan and Cŵr Merched Cwm Llynfi. The award winners were recognised for their contribution to the community through volunteering, giving their time, energy, skills and commitment to help others.

BAVO spokeswoman said: "Volunteers take on a wide range of tasks throughout Bridgend County Borough. They give up their time to make their community a better place, yet often receive little, if any recognition for their commitment and energy."

"BAVO's awards have been designed to recognise and honour outstanding people and organisations that have made a significant contribution to our community during the past year."

"Award winners were:

Dafydd Williams (Elite SEA) – Volunteer of the Year under 25 (sponsored by Halo Leisure).

Ridley Griffith (Welsh Athletics) – Sports Volunteer of the Year (sponsored by Halo Leisure).

Ken Russell (Alzheimer's Society) – Befriending/Mentoring Award (sponsored by Valleys to Coast).

Ann Day (MS Society, Bridgend & District Branch) – Volunteer of the Year over 25.

Nigel Hardaker (Bridgend Carers Centre) – Trustee of the Year.

Ryan Morgan (BAD Bikes) – Environmental Volunteer of the Year sponsored by Merthyr Mawr Estate.

KPC Youth – Volunteer Project of the Year (sponsored by United Graphic Design).

Roy Rees (Healing the Wounds) – Outstanding Volunteer Contribution.

A total of 33 individuals from voluntary organisations across the county borough were also awarded 'Highly Commended' Bridgend County Borough Volunteer Achievement Awards 2013 certificates.

A list of names is available by visiting www.bavo.org.uk.

Move Forward

BAVO's chief executive, Heidi Bennett said: "I am delighted that this year we were able to bring a more local dimension to our volunteer awards ceremony. Bridgend county borough has always done well in terms of recognition of volunteers through our umbrella body – WCVA's award scheme, but we know there are hundreds of local achievers who wouldn't dream of entering a 'national' award scheme, despite their fantastic work."

BAVO wanted to give them the recognition they deserve and providing such an occasion seemed very fitting. I am extremely grateful to all our sponsors, contributors, politicians and presenters who have also shared our view and supported our event."

Individuals and groups were also presented their 'Highly Commended' certificates for WCVA's Wales Volunteer of the Year Awards 2013. These were presented by Janice Gregory AM.

'Highly Commended' winners were Aaron Woodland (Groundwork Bridgend Neath Port

Talbot), Sophie Grabham and Anne Holder (Parc Supporting Families), Richard Curl (Bridge Mentoring Plus Scheme) and Parc Supporting Families.

Janice Gregory said: "Volunteers are the lifeblood of our society, making a huge difference to a wide range of people. I know how many activities in our area simply would not happen without their efforts and I have also seen how many volunteers themselves grow and develop through their involvement."

"It has been a great pleasure over the years to join in celebrating the achievements of local groups and individuals who have received all-Wales awards."

BAVO has over 300 registered voluntary organisations offering a wide range of opportunities that can match your skills and interests with a vacancy that best suits you. For further details about volunteering, call 01656 810400 or visit www.bavo.org.uk or you can also find the latest volunteering opportunities by visiting the Wales Volunteer Website, www.volunteering-wales.net



Ann Day (MS Society Bridgend and District Branch) winner of Volunteer of the Year Award over 25.



ABOVE: Roy Rees (Healing the Wounds) winner of Outstanding Volunteer Contribution, presented by BAVO chief executive, Heidi Bennett.



ABOVE: Ken Russell (Alzheimer's Society) winner of Befriending/Mentoring Award, presented by Steve Curry, on behalf of award sponsor Valleys to Coast.



Nigel Hardaker (Bridgend Carers) winner of Trustee of the Year Award, presented by Rory McLaggan Esq, High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan.



Dafydd Williams (Elite SEA) winner of Young Volunteer of the Year Award.



Ryan Morgan (BAD Bikes) winner of Environmental Volunteer of the Year Award, which was sponsored by the Merthyr Mawr estate.



ABOVE: Ridley Griffith (Welsh Athletics) winner of Sports Volunteer of the Year Award, presented by Paul Whapham, on behalf of award sponsor Halo Leisure.



KPYC Youth winners of Volunteer Project of the Year Award, presented by Lesley Poulton, on behalf of award sponsors United Graphic Design.

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aberkenfig and District Women's Institute

ON November 4, seven members of Aberkenfig and District Women's Institute travelled to the Princess Royal Theatre in Port Talbot for the Glamorgan Federation of Women's Institutes autumn council meeting.

The ladies were welcomed by the president, who said there was a very full programme in store. The first speaker was consultant gynaecologist Peter Bowen Simpkins. He was very informative, easy to listen to and incredibly funny. He was a very good speaker, a real character, also an active member of his local amateur dramatic society.

After the various presentations, the speaker for the afternoon was introduced, though he didn't need much of an introduction.

He was Wynn Evans (Mr Go Compare). Wynn was a member of Welsh National Opera for eight years after a spell with the Scottish National Opera. Then he moved to the English National Opera Company.

He said appearing in Covent Garden gave him the best feeling in the world. Wynn described several funny incidents, one being on entering Covent Garden for the first time he was asked the question, 'Opera or Ballet?' You can imagine the look on his very round face!

He said he seems to attract chaos wherever he goes and touched on what sounded a very stable family life. His wife is a violinist, and his children Iestyn and Esme seem to be very normal kids.

He started with Go Compare in 2009. The company was started by a Welsh woman who built up the company and when she decided to use a singer for her advertising, she wanted a Welsh tenor for the job.

Originally, he wasn't keen, but agreed to do a trial. He realised that maybe he should not follow the same path but reinvent himself and he has no regrets.

He now also has a regular spot on Friday afternoons on Radio Wales. This week he is in South Africa, filming another set of advertisements. He sang a song for the WI to the tune of

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The Gem:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tynyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



Jerusalem, which was very funny.

He finished with another song *The Impossible Dream* which was absolutely amazing and he brought the conference to its feet. I don't remember a full standing ovation happening at a WI council meeting before. The morning speaker was very good, but Wynn really made the afternoon!

Future events for Aberkenfig WI to take part in include the craft spectacular in Margam Orangery. This year there will be 25 stalls. Margam WI is 90 years old this year, the same age as the federation and they have compiled a cookery book to mark their special birthday.

Members will also have the chance of a look behind the scenes tour of BBC Cymru Wales, the Bath walk and a night of dancing.

The competition word for Aberkenfig WI next year is 'Membership'.

The next meeting is on December 11 and will be the Christmas party.

We always have a competition, and December's will be for a small item beginning with the letter 'N' and there will always be a nice cup of tea and the chance of a chat with members.

Aberkenfig and District Women's Institute meets on the second Wednesday of each month, at 2pm in the Welfare Hall, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig.

Contact secretary Pat Lewis on 01656 721933 or 01656 725399. It is a very welcoming group and are now very keen to expand the membership.

Bridgend male choir

THIS well-known choir has recently returned from a festival of music on the Isle of Man, where it came joint second with the Fron choir – a choir which has appeared on television on numerous occasions and had an album in the charts.

This denotes the level of competition there was in the festival, and the standard Bridgend Male Choir has achieved under its new musical director, Rhianon

Williams-Hale.

On Wednesday, December 4 at 7pm, the Archbishop of Wales and Bishop of Llandaff will be officiating in a service at St Mary's Catholic Church, Ewenny Road, Bridgend, and the choir will be there to help with the singing of the hymns.

Maesteg Amateur Operatic Society Congratulations are due to the members of Maesteg Amateur Operatic Society, who have recently received long service awards from the National Operatic and Dramatic Association.

Especially deserving of a mention is Tony Mullins, who joined the society at 11 years of age and received the award for 50 years of membership.

Tony has appeared in at least one show (and sometimes as many as three) in a year. He joined the senior section of the society in 1970 when he took part in the musical *Calamity Jane*.

He is only the second member of Maesteg Amateur Operatic Society to have received this long service award from the National Association.

Other members of the society who received recognition on the same evening were given pins, Sian Rees for 10 years, Carys Williams for 15 years, Richard Norton for 20 years, while two more members received awards for 30 years' membership. They were Mair Hawley and Sarah Thomas.

Bridgend Carers' Centre THE centre is a charity which was set up to provide support and information to these carers, located in 87 Park Street, Bridgend, (01656 658479) and is a welcoming venue for all.

Three members of staff at the centre are to be congratulated for their effort in taking part in the recent Cardiff half marathon race, in which they raised over £600. Well done to Sue Evans, Paula Hall and Darija Mann, especially Darija, who not only completed the course but ran with a rucksack on her back weighing three stone.

Today, (Thursday) the outreach group will be at Maesteg Town Council offices from 10am to 12noon, where carers can receive advice on matters that may be concerning them.

Tomorrow (Friday),

carers, along with representatives of MacMillan cancer support, can join Paula on a guided walk along the lane to Ewenny Priory, where they will be given a guided tour by Mr Eurof Evans, who has a vast knowledge on this historic building. He will be available to answer questions about this wonderful local place of interest while they enjoy a cup of coffee or tea.

On Monday, November 25 there will be the 'book cwtch' between 1pm-2pm, where help is given by providing a book or poem with the opportunity to practice reading aloud. This has proven to be helpful to the patient carer looks after by helping the patient relax.

On Wednesday, November 27 a representative of Howell's solicitors will be available to give free advice to carers in the centre from 10am to 12 noon. Phone the above number to make an appointment.

The community café will be open between 12.30pm and 3.30pm. Keith Bowen, director of Carers Wales, will be at the café to celebrate carers' rights day.

Bridgend Foodbank

THE charity does so much to help people who find themselves in dire circumstances.

It needs funds to cover the cost of leasing a warehouse in which it keeps stocks of food and of course providing transport for carrying food to its distribution centres.

To assist in raising funds, it plans to hold a series of concerts throughout the Bridgend area in the new year. The first will take place in Tabernacle Chapel, Pontycymer, in January and I am pleased to say that Brackla Community Chorus has volunteered to take part in this concert, and hopefully young individuals from Maesteg Amateur Operatic Society will be soloists.

If any choirs, individuals or musicians would like to assist the charity in raising these funds, please could they provide information to my details published above?

Ladies Choir **COR Merched Cwm Llynfi (Llynfi Valley Ladies Choir)** recently entertained the guests at an award ceremony at St Mary Hill Golf Club, Pencoed.

The event was organised by the Bridgend Association of Voluntary

Organisations and they were delighted to be invited to perform in this function.

Nigel Hardaker, chairperson of Bridgend Carers' Centre, was trustee of the year; this recognised his commitment, hard work and dedication and support he had provided to staff and carers at the centre.

The choir rehearse at the Celtic Club, Garth, on a Wednesday evening and would love to welcome new members, especially those able to sing the lower voice range. Gareth Malone does not seem to have trouble attracting lady singers and Paul Deenik Bradley, the musical director, seems such a similar leader!

Maesteg Children's Choir

THE choir recently performed in a concert at Central Church, Maesteg, for the charity Christian Aid.

Unfortunately, it was held on the same night as two other charity events, but they raised a total of £135 and an enjoyable time was had by one and all.

The choir with musical director Enid-Sian Hughes and accompanist Sian Davies, performed a varied and popular programme including 'Sing' and 'When You Believe'. Caitlin Jenkins sang 'Whistle Down The Wind' while Lauren Coates sang 'Anfonaf Angel' and Samantha Cox sang 'One Voice'. All gave excellent performances.

The guest soloists for the evening were the ever-popular Rhian Hughes and Aled Williams, who thrilled the audience with their performance.

The concert ended with the well-known piece *One Day More* from *Les Miserables*, when both Aled and Rhian joined the choir to bring the concert to a rousing end.

The choir's next performance is in the Christmas tree celebrations in St David's Church, Maesteg, on Friday, December 6, a lovely night for all to enjoy.

Maesteg choir **COR Meibion Maesteg a'r Cylch (Maesteg and District Male Choir)** was recently invited by the Rotary Club of Somer Valley, Radstock near Bath, to take part in the Rotarians Autumn Showtime.

The choir joined with the Bath Light Operatic group, to sing in an auditorium designed to produce exceptional acoustic qualities, and sing everyone did!

The choir opening proceedings with their usual traditional Welsh songs, starting with the *Men of Harlech* and finishing their first spot with Mansell Thomas's famous *Llanfair*.

The musical team of the choir, Rhian Jenkins and Ryan Wood, had

ensured the choir was perfectly controlled, with the audience of over 300 people raising the roof and wanting more!

The compere for the evening was Ben Fish; his dulcet tone when he introduced the musical items was second to none.

The choir continued to enthral the audience; with the audience giving a standing ovation as the choir went into its ultimate song *Finlandia* to the arrangement by Dr Haydn James.

The night didn't finish there. The choir, renowned for their after glow, were joined in the foyer of the school, with at least 100 people from the audience, and the singing continued.

The choristers would like to thank everyone for the warm and friendly welcome they received from the people of Radstock, and the wonderful and enjoyable buffet.

The choir is always on the lookout for new choristers.

If anyone thinks they can't sing, joining the choir will prove them wrong. The choir has an excellent musical team in Rhian Jenkins, Huw Morgan and Ryan Wood and its experienced choristers are only too willing to help.

If anyone would like to know more about the choir before committing themselves, go along to rehearsals on Thursday evenings at the Maesteg Celtic Club, Garth, between 7pm to 9pm.

Tondu

Cricket Club **TOMORROW evening (November 22) there is a rock and roll evening at the club to raise funds for the Sandville charity.**

It will star Dave Riley and entry will be £5, starting at 7pm. It will continue until 12 midnight.

Public urinals **NINE public urinals in the north of Bridgend county borough have been earmarked for closure due to their poor condition.**

The affected urinals are at: Aberkenfig, The Square; Llangainor, The Square; Maesteg, junction between Castle Street and Bridge Street; Maesteg, junction between Bethania Street and Ewenny Road; Nantylfyllon, High Street and Picton Street; Caerau, Tonna Road; Ogmore Vale, Bridge Street and Fronwen Terrace.

The cabinet of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) have decided that town and community councils should now be consulted on the disposal of the urinals, and if any feel strongly about keeping them then they will be invited to take over the duties for maintaining and cleaning the facilities.

School's fundraising efforts top £7,000!

ON Friday, November 15, Porthcawl Comprehensive School's annual charities' week concluded.

The week began with a cake sale and the famous 'Womanless Miss World' competition which saw sixth form boys dressed up as women, twerking and showing the audience numerous talents!

The week continued with lunchtime events getting bigger and better, especially 'I'm a teacher get me out of here!' which saw four members of staff, plus the head boy and head girl, drinking a delightful jungle milkshake and keeping a live locust in their mouths for as long as

possible. On Friday, years 7-11 wore their own clothes and the sixth form wore fancy dress.

This included the organisers, the Head Team, as Dalmatian puppies and Mr Slade (head-teacher) as Cruella De Vil.

With more than £7,000 raised and still counting, £2,400 has been donated to the national charity 'Children in Need' and the remaining money will be donated to different local charities as decided by the Head Team.

Thanks must also be given to the Hi-Tide, Porthcawl, who let us hold a 'Pub Quiz' for sixth form and teachers which raised over £600.

Eleri Connick, Sixth Form

'Wielding the willow' is not just cricket!

SOUTHERNDOWN WI NEWS

THE WI was wielding the willow at the November meeting!

No, not a cricket match, but a productive, functional evening with each member making a small decorative article from willow.

Clare Revere, from 'Out to learn willow', gave a short talk and demonstration about her beginnings and development as a willow craftsman.

She then invited members to have a go and produce a personal piece of artistic craft.

Clare had a supply of the tools of the trade and within minutes, most of those taking part had created a worthy piece of willow

work. Willow is a pleasing, almost therapeutic medium to work with, producing attractive, varying structures – even coffins!

Workshops and classes can be arranged and Clare has a relaxed, enthusiastic approach.

President Meryl dealt with any business and leisure events.

Members selected one resolution to be forwarded to NFWI annual general meeting next year.

The carol service is at All Saints Church, Southerndown, on December 12 at 7pm; Christmas dinner at Ogmore Farmhouse, Ogmore, on December 5 at 7.30pm.

Barclays staff boost Llamau homeless projects

THIS week, Barclays staff swapped pens for paint brushes, completely 'making over' one of Llamau's projects located in Maesteg.

Hartshorn House is a project house for homeless young people, run by Llamau, Wales' leading homelessness charity. Hartshorn House has eight self-contained flats with 24-hour support for homeless young people or those leaving care.

Llamau's chief executive, Frances Beecher, said: "We are so grateful to Barclays for supporting us in this way and I know the young people who live at Hartshorn House will be just as delighted with this fantastic make over as we are."

Read your GEM online
bridgend-today.co.uk

Christmas fayre to be held in Porthcawl

ALL Saints' Church, Victoria Avenue, Porthcawl, is holding a Christmas Fayre at 11.30am on Saturday, November 23.

There will be lunches and refreshments, a raffle, home-made cakes, bric-a-brac, books, DVDs, jewellery and other stalls.

A fun day at Porthcawl Comprehensive as whole school supports Children in Need

PUPILS at Porthcawl Comprehensive School were involved in fundraising for charity over a whole week recently, as the report (left) on page 8 explains.

Local photographer Malcolm Nugent visited the school on the Friday to take these pictures of the day's activities.



Members of staff put together a girl band. We're guessing it was a number from Sister Act.



The talent show judges were Mrs Hammerton, Miss Lane and Mr Thomas.

**PICTURES
by
MALCOLM
NUGENT**



The talent show winners were Mr Card, Mr Booth, Mr Davies and Mr Jenkins – a boy band by the name of 'Moo-stash'. (They are all growing moustaches for November).



The 'Head Team' – who organised the week's activities – paid homage to Disney's 101 Dalmatians, and are pictured above with Cruella de Ville (headteacher Andrew Slade).



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Shock as 100 horses have to be put down

THE Vale Council is one of a number of organisations praised for their response to a harrowing case in the Vale where more than 100 horses

have now had to be put down.

The Minister for Natural Resources, Alun Davies, has thanked the Vale Council, the RSPCA, Redwings Horse Sanctuary and the police for their swift

action to address the suffering of a large number of horses at Wick.

As yet, little detail about the incident has been made public, but the Minister said that the organisations had all played a vital part in attending to over 400 horses during recent weeks and assessing their health.

The remaining horses have been taken to a place of safety.

Alun Davies said: "As this deeply upsetting situation unfolded, I have been saddened by the awful condition the horses had been left in.

"Difficult decisions have had to be made and I am grateful to all those involved for their swift and effective action, which has relieved the suffering of these horses, and I would like to pay tribute to the Vale Council for their robust response to this emergency."

As well as contributing financially to the cost of the operation, the Welsh Government has recently introduced legislation aimed at addressing the problem of fly grazing and aban-

doned horses, which has a shocking impact on many communities across Wales.

Alun Davies added: "Although this particular incident was on private land, I think it only emphasises the need for our proposed Control of Horses (Wales) Bill to tackle the problem of abandoned and suffering horses.

"Our legislation encourages more responsible horse ownership, while at the same time providing local authorities with the tools they need to take swift and robust action when horses are abandoned or left on land without consent."

However, the Welsh Conservative Leader, Andrew RT Davies, said that the legislation should have been passed much earlier.

He said: "For several years now I have been raising horse welfare issues in the National Assembly and the news that more than 100 horses have had to be put down because of the level of their suffering is very sad indeed.

"I have been vocal in my calls for action on

Gladstone Primary honours the 'Fallen'



Laying the wreath to honour former pupils.

RECENTLY, children and staff from Gladstone Primary started the week on a solemn note with a moving Remembrance service held at the school by teacher Sarah Creasey.

The children listened to the poem 'In Flanders Field', watched the video of and listened to

'Pipes of Peace' by Paul McCartney, and discussed the reasons why we wear a poppy each year before taking part in the two minutes' silence at 11am led by headteacher Mrs Newman.

As a mark of respect, some of the year-6 children laid poppy wreaths around the Gladstone Memorial Plaque, positioned at the front of the school, which honours past pupils who lost their lives during the Great War.

The week ended on a high with children and staff dressing up in as many different patterns as possible to raise money for Children in Need, organised by teachers Ali Thomas and Carla Bluet.

As ever, the parents of Gladstone children gave generously and the grand total raised by the end of the day was just under £600, including £60 from the sale of cakes made by members of the school's 'Cwtch Club'. **HR**

TEACHER NOMINATED FOR AWARD

A LOCAL teacher has been nominated for an international teaching award.

Helen Hier, who has taught modern foreign languages at St Clare's School in Porthcawl for the past 10 years, has been shortlisted for the 'Secondary Teacher of the Year' award in the Cognita Schools annual 'Awards of Excellence'.

Cognita is an international schools group, currently encompassing 64 schools across the UK, Europe, Latin America and South-East Asia. As one of over 6,000 teachers working for Cognita, the nomination is a great accolade for Helen, who will attend the awards ceremony later this

month. Helen is a former pupil of St Clare's School, and has recently been promoted to deputy head.

Clementine Kinder, head girl at St Clare's, is currently studying for her Spanish A-Level and has been taught by Helen Hier throughout the senior school.

She said: "Mrs Hier provides a happy working environment within the school, especially in her lessons, making it exciting and entertaining to learn the Spanish language."

Staff and pupils at St Clare's School wish to take this opportunity to congratulate Helen and wish her all the best on the night. **JH**

Safety warning on kitchen fires

THE Safer Vale Partnership, including the Vale Council, is reminding people of the dangers of fires in the kitchen.

Since October 1 this year, Barry Fire Station has attended six fires in houses in the Barry area, which started accidentally in the kitchen, and spread to the rest of the house.

Station manager Carl Evans said: "The fires Barry crews have attended have all been accidents caused by the occupiers leaving their cooking unattended.

"We are lucky in that we have had no deaths or serious injuries from these fires, and we urge the public to follow some basic advice when cooking."

Safety tips:

- Keep electrical leads, tea towels, cloths, loose clothing and anything else that may catch fire away from the oven and hob.
- Keep the oven, hob and grill clean – a build-up of fat and grease can

easily catch fire.

- Keep your toaster clean, free of crumbs and away from curtains, kitchen rolls and anything else that could catch fire.
- Never overload sockets.
- Turn off electrical appliances when not being used and have them serviced regularly.
- Use a spark device to light gas cookers as this is safer than using matches or lighters.
- Never leave children alone in the kitchen. Keep matches, lighters and pan handles where children can't reach them. Fit a child safety catch to the oven door.
- Take pans off the heat and turn off the hob and/or grill if you have to leave the kitchen while cooking, and make sure the oven, hob and grill is turned off when you have finished cooking.
- Most important is that people avoid cooking if they are tired, have been drinking alcohol or are taking medication.

To alert you to any fire in your home, a working smoke alarm is essential.

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 3 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've

done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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'Walk' around old Cardiff

IT was a trip down memory lane for some Barry U3A members when Mr David Salter took us on a 'virtual' tour of the centre of Cardiff with his talk entitled 'A walk around town, the changing face of Cardiff'.

Dave has a postcard collection of old Cardiff and he took us on a five-mile Walk around the city, using his postcard collection. Many buildings have been demolished, modes of transport have certainly changed with the trolley buses on many of the slides, but much of the cityscape remains the same from medieval, Victorian and the 20th Century.

The next monthly meeting, in the New Jerusalem Hall (opposite Barry Library) is on Monday, December 2, at 2pm. The speaker is Clive Sims with a musical lucky dip with a festive flavour.

For more information on all our groups and activities, telephone John on 01446 413328 or go to www.u3asites.org.uk/barry. **VAL WARLOW**

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LLANCARFAN VILLAGE SHOWS OFF CINEMA TO THE CULTURE MINISTER

THE community of Llanccarfarn welcomed the Maria Miller MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, to the village hall recently, sharing village pride in showing their award-winning, volunteer-run cinema in action.

The Minister was greeted by volunteers, who explained how the cinema was originally set up only last year. The visitors, who viewed trailers for the forthcoming Spring season, also included Alun Cairns MP, Coun Jeff James and the Rev

Mark Dimond of St Cadoc's Church. In September, Llanccarfarn Community Cinema won several honours at the Film Society of the Year Awards ceremony in London, including Best New Film Society and the Filmbank Audience Award. Jim Barratt, chair of

the cinema organising committee, said volunteers were delighted their achievements had been recognised so early in this way: "We've been running for just over a year and the support received locally has been tremendous. This visit gave us the opportunity to express thanks to organisations that have assisted in our first year, including those funded by the UK and Welsh Governments and the Vale Council. These included Creative Rural Communities, the British Federation of Film Societies and the Film Agency for Wales."

After leaving the village hall, the Minister was given a tour of the conservation work under way at St Cadoc's Church, where Sam Smith, chairman of the conservation committee, joined conservator Jane Rutherford to explain the church's unique wall paintings.

Paint conservator Liz Cheadle also gave a sneak preview of the renovated 16th century Reredos, due for unveiling on December 5. Conservation work has been significantly funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, for which



Minister for Culture, Media and Sport, Maria Miller MP, on her recent visit to Llanccarfarn's community cinema.

the Minister has responsibility. Alun Cairns said: "It was a fantastic occasion to mark the great success of Llanccarfarn Community Cinema."

"This is yet another example of Llanccarfarn coming together to make a difference in the community. The cinema in the village hall attracts people of all ages and all backgrounds. It is a great model for any other part of the Vale to replicate."

"Inviting the Secretary of State was a pleasure because of their success. I wanted her to spread Llanccarfarn's success UK wide."

Maria Miller said: "It was a delight to see such a successful model for a community cine-

ma. There is a lot of work in organising such an initiative and the awards Llanccarfarn have won speak for themselves."

"Having spent my formative years living in Ewenny and being educated at Brynteg, I was so pleased to see such a great local success. It was a pleasure to congratulate all those involved. I will be championing this model all around the UK."

Details of Llanccarfarn Community Cinema's new season, which starts in January, will be announced at a screening of Untouchable (15) on Friday, November 22. See www.llanccarfarncinema.co.uk for details.

Remembrance at Llanmaes



VILLAGERS in Llanmaes attended the Remembrance Service at St Cattwg's Church, where prayers were said and tributes paid to those who died in the service of their country.

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NEWS FROM PENARTH
COMPUTER CLUBHow to
capture
memorable
images...

DIGITAL images are firmly established in our lives whether they are created by dedicated cameras or those built into mobile telephones or i-pads.

They can be clear, sharp and colourful to A4 size and larger.

What hasn't changed is the range of their quality that still varies from cheerful 'happy snaps' to works of art.

Our guest speaker, Guy, showed us ways to improve from one towards the other using a computer.

Naturally, to get the best results you need to capture the best image.

What the camera does with what it detects makes quite a difference.

Most of us are content for the camera to process what it sees into an image according to the Joint Picture Experts Group's agreed standard, indicated by a file name extension of .jpg.

By doing this, the camera has already discarded a lot of the information it initially noted in order to reduce the file size.

There are other photographic file formats, but .jpg is most common for 'ordinary' pictures.

Serious photographers prefer to keep ALL the information then work on it using their computer software.

Such an unprocessed image is called a RAW image and is much larger. Many cameras can take them.

RAW images provide much more information to work with.

As software becomes more powerful, it is possible to go back to old RAW files and produce even better results the second time around. Whatever image you choose to work with, there are practices that can improve your results.

Guy suggests that

when taking a group photograph, you take several shots from the exact spot because there's always someone with their eyes closed or looking the wrong way.

Editing software (ranging from expensive to free) allows you to choose the best overall shot and replace a turned head with a better one from another image (taken same time; same background; same lighting conditions) using the 'clone' tool.

This tool can also be used to remove distractions from the background. (We have all seen trees or lampposts growing from the top of somebody's head.)

Other tools were used to adjust the contrast levels and increase or reduce the intensity of colours and even add colours – and interest – to old black and white photographs.

Lighting effects were tweaked; even horizons lowered using a layering technique that allows an attractive cloudy sky be added to, say, a landscape that has a blank sky.

Even murky images can be enhanced to bring out details in shadows that would otherwise be unseen.

As with most things, more time, patience and concentration brings more satisfactory results: more practice brings the desired result more quickly and with less fuss.

Having shown the techniques, Guy then displayed a sample range of his results with large prints on both glossy and art paper to much admiration.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, November 26 at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, 7.30pm to 9.30pm; 'Online Shopping. Who can and who wants to?' Visitors always welcome. See penarthcomputerclub.co.uk.

Howard Desmond

MP supports
referendum

LOCAL MP, Alun Cairns, last week voted in favour of a referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union.

The vote was part of a private member's bill which promises to deliver a referendum in 2017 after the Government has had the opportunity to renegotiate the UK's membership.

Mr Cairns said: "I agree that there is a clear need for a renegotiation of our relationship with Europe, to one that is more flexible and focused on trade."

"I am pleased that the Government has announced plans to withdraw from specific areas of the Lisbon Treaty relating to Justice and Home Affairs."

"I will continue to maintain pressure on MPs from other political parties to support the Bill."

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FREE mince pie when you buy a hot drink at the new cafe at Bridgend Recreation Centre

Mon
9 DEC



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Wed
11 DEC



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12 DEC



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Cadets get mobile with the police



SGT (ATC) Kevin Gould arranged two visits for cadets from 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron RAF Air Cadets.

The first was to the South Wales Police Eastern Sector Roads Policing Unit, where they were given a presentation about the roles of traffic police and how closely they work with other departments within the South Wales Police Force.

Inspector Rob Gwynne-Thomas showed cadets and staff

around the facility, where they were able to look at the bikes and vehicles which range from BMWs to Audi Quattros.

Cadet Craig Evans presented a plaque with the squadron crest carved out on Welsh slate to commemorate their visit.

The second visit was arranged for the following week when cadets visited the Police Air Support Unit at MoD St Athan. This started with a presentation from Inspector Gary Smart, explaining that the first time policing from the air was used was at the Epsom Derby in 1921,

using the R33 Airship.

The first time a helicopter was used in Wales was in the 1960s. The cadets were given a task where they looked at footage taken from the helicopter and had to find persons. This put into perspective the skills used by the officers while carrying out their duties.

The cadets and staff were shown around the helicopter and individual roles were explained. Cadet Craig Evans presented Inspector Gary Smart with a memento of their visit, a squadron crest carved out on Welsh slate.

Sgt (ATC) Kevin Gould, who arranged the visits, would like to thank all at South Wales Police for the time taken to show the cadets around during their busy day.

Ft Lt Barry C Thomas, Officer Commanding 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Sqn said: "These visits are the latest in a range of activities arranged by Kevin throughout 2013 and the feedback from cadets is proving to be very positive."

Lindsay Thomas
secretary, civilian committee



Rayner from Bridgend takes over as regional Soroptimist president

THIS year's Soroptimist Wales south regional president is Rayner Rees from the Bridgend Club.

She was inaugurated at the annual conference in Gateshead and on Saturday, November 16,

she was joined by more than 80 members from the region for her annual luncheon, which was held at Coed-y-Mwstr Hotel, Cychurch.

Entertainment was provided by the Freewheelers, a choral group who are all from the National

Trust and hail from Aberdula in the Neath Valley, taking their name from the water wheel at Aberdula Falls, and are pictured above with regional president Rayner and club president Barbara Parish.



Rev Canon Edward Evans.

WORK is forging ahead towards creating a new larger ministry area - as called for by the Church in Wales Review - in one area of Bridgend.

The parish of Laleston and Merthyr Mawr is being expanded to include Penyfa, with the Rev Canon Edward Evans to be inducted as vicar of the new parish, and the Rev Mike Lewis to be licensed as his assistant curate.

They will be inducted and licensed respectively by the Assistant Bishop of Llandaff, David Wilbourne, on Monday, November 25, at All Saints, Penyfa, at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

David Wilbourne,

Bridgend church parishes to merge



Rev Mike Lewis.

said: "Canon Edward Evans and Rev Michael Lewis are a very experienced and faithful team who previously ministered in Laleston and Merthyr Mawr, a parish with a definite buzz about it.

"Their duties now extend to Penyfa, another parish with a definite buzz about it, so they will be well matched and we can expect an exciting future in the new benefice."

Edward and Michael take over from the Rev Elaine Harris who retired last year after six years in the parish as a non stipendiary (unpaid) minister.

"Mike and I realised that we could handle Penyfa between us because of the size of the parish and because of

the times of the services at the various churches and that is what we have been doing for the last year," said Edward.

"What is now happening is that the arrangement that we already had is being formalised - Penyfa is adjacent to Laleston and Merthyr Mawr and it makes sense for it to become one parish."

As well as being vicar of Laleston, Merthyr Mawr and Penyfa, Edward is also area dean for Bridgend, a post he has held for two and a half years - and having held it previously for 10 years from 1994 to 2004. After being ordained in 1971, he was

curate in Church Village for seven years, then vicar of Eglwysilan for 11 years before moving to Laleston in 1988.

His curate, Mike Lewis, is a retired school teacher who has worked as a non-stipendiary minister in the parish, for the past 11 years.

"We have already developed a relationship with Penyfa, which is a small village with one church, and this relationship is now going to be built upon and developed further. There is no way that a parish that size could justify having a full time priest," said Edward.

MP visits local youth centre

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon recently met Alison Mawby, the project manager of KPC Youth, to hand over a cheque from another completed parliamentary questionnaire.

The funds this time go to KPC Youth, Wales' number one award winning youth project in Pyle.

Madeline said: "On my last visit to KPC Youth in December last year, Alison Mawby had exciting plans to update the building. KPC Youth was formed in 1998 in response to a lack of facilities for young people in the Bridgend area. This year they celebrate 15



ABOVE: Madeline Moon MP hands over the cheque to KPC Youth.

years of offering support to youngsters.

"They help with job searches, motivation, building their esteem and life opportunities, and also run accredited courses in a range of

subjects."

KPCY has over 350 young people on their books and open nightly, Monday to Friday. They have a wide range of activities including an outdoor skate park, BMX track and multi sports court. Inside, there is internet access,

pool, arts/crafts and much more. KPCY also work with young people who are not in education, training or employment.

Mrs Moon continued: "Alison's grand plan is to replace the existing temporary building with a new two-storey building. In the spring, a fundraising campaign was started to Buy a Brick to help towards the new development. The target is £250k, which would be used to match-fund capital from funding bids.

"Fundraising is going well and the amount raised so far is well on track but more bricks need to be bought. If you can help with fundraising or can Buy a Brick at £2 per brick please go to their website www.kpcyouth.com."

PORTHCAWL TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Members pay tribute to Glenis James

OUR chairman, Dee Richardson, welcomed all members to our November meeting, along with a new member and a visitor.

An update on sick members was given.

Members stood for a moment in memory of Glenis James, a long time and hard working member.

The luncheon enjoyed a visit to the Angel Inn at Mawdlam, and the craft group were getting ideas for decorating our tree for the tree festival.

Members were reminded of a Pavilion Theatre visit and two Christmas lunches.

The November speaker was Ceri Joseph, always popular for her entertaining and energetic talks, this time on the princes and princesses of Wales. Much intermestic bloodshed!

Our next meeting is on December 11 at All Saints Church Hall at 2pm, when we shall enjoy a splendid tea and Christmas entertainment.

All welcome. Do come and join in the fun!
Dorothy Thomas

Ancient house open to public



Volunteers in costume at St John's House.

THE St John's House Trust in Bridgend holds its last open day of 2013 on Saturday, November 30.

The late medieval house, known as St John's, is on Newcastle Hill (above the Toll House and the Unitarian Chapel on Park Street).

It will be open to the public 11am - 3pm. It is an opportunity to see and hear the history contained inside this Grade II Listed building.

SM

Evan makes debut for the Ospreys

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC RFC are proud that another former player from their mini and junior section and youth section, Evan Yardley, has gone on to make his full Ospreys debut in last week's game against the Cardiff Blues.

Evan started his rugby career at seven years old in the BARFC mini and juniors as a back row forward - but eventually found his niche as a hooker.

He also played for Brynteg School and Bridgend College and gained representative honours for Wales at both under-16 and under-18 level.

He then joined the Ospreys Academy and is now associated with Aberavon RFC, from where he made his first full Ospreys appearance.

Evan joins another former BARFC player, Scott Baldwin, who is also contesting the hooking role at the Ospreys, currently occupied by Wales and British Lion Richard Hibbard.

Netball match with difference raises funds

ON Wednesday, November 13, Newton Primary School, Porthcawl hosted a netball match to raise funds for the school.

It was a netball match with a difference as it saw the staff take on the parents and, boy, what a match it was!

First out on the court were the 'Newton Mothers' who were dressed as St Trinians. The tension mounted as they waited for the staff, the 'Newton Ninjas', who dressed in neon tutus and leg warmers.

The match was refereed by Mr Jenkins, head of sport and a former pupil.

Both teams were extremely competitive and the Newton Mothers soon went in to the lead. The staff tried extremely hard to catch up, even by having 10 players on the pitch at one point, but they could not come close to the Newton Mothers.

The cheers and applause could be heard around the court as the supporters laughed and cheered on both teams.

Thank you to Newton PTA who sold hot chocolate and hot dogs to keep the spectators warm.

It was an eventful afternoon and great fun was had by all; however, the staff are now demanding a rematch very soon!

JH

AB

BRYN HAFREN PUPILS RAISE AN IMPRESSIVE £811 EACH FOR TWO IMPORTANT CHARITIES

EVERY year the year-10 pupils at Bryn Hafren hold a fayre for their Welsh Baccalaureate project.

They produce a number of stalls from sweets to decorations; lots of the stalls this year had a Hallowe'en theme.

A very popular stand was the 'tie-dye t-shirts'. They sold very quickly and were just like something you would buy in a shop.

Another stall was henna, where you could pay for a pupil to draw a henna pattern on your hand.

Some other popular stands included face painting and throwing water balloons at teachers!

The Fayre raised £811 for the British Heart Foundation and £811 for the Mount Olive Outreach Appeal.

SM



WHAT'S ON

Family service
ALL Saints Church in Victoria Square, Penarth, is holding a family service on Sunday, November 24 at 10am.

There will be worship items suitable for all ages focused on the theme of 'Christ the King'. Creche facilities are available and refreshments served afterwards.

All are welcome.

Coffee morning

THERE is a coffee morning in aid of Breakthrough Breast Cancer on Saturday, November 23 from 10.30am - 12 noon at Trinity Church Hall, Trinity Street, Barry.

Entry £1 to include tea/coffee. Cakes, books, bric-a-brac and craft stalls and raffle.

CAKES FOR CHILDREN IN NEED!



Gladstone Primary School children and staff dressed up in as many different patterns as possible to raise money for Children in Need, organised by teachers Ali Thomas and Carla Bluett. As ever, the parents and children gave generously and the grand total raised by the end of the day was just under £600 including £60 from the sale of cakes made by members of the school's 'Cwtch Club'.

THRILLS AT LLLANDOW RACETRACK WITH CARS IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

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THERE was a variety of racing cars providing thrills at Llandow Racetrack over the weekend, and photographer Glyn Evans was on hand to capture all the excitement.

As you can see, some were familiar models, others were kits cars. The cavalcade proved quite a sight for watching spectators.



Pupils will be following guide dog pups at work!



Trainee guide dog Dash and puppy walker Linda Killick meet the school council at Llanilltud Fawr Primary School, watched by governor Mr Mason.

A VALE school has become the first in south Wales to sponsor a class of guide dog puppies.

Pupils at Llanilltud Fawr Primary School will follow the progress of Robin, Truffle and Holly as they make the journey from playful pups to fully-trained guide dogs.

They will receive regular 'Pupdates', photos, lesson plans, activity sheets, a wall chart and poster, plus take-home gifts for every pupil in the class.

Teacher Karen Bale said the children were really excited to find out the names of their puppies. "The favourite is Truffle," she said.

"It was the school council's idea to support Guide Dogs, and the whole

school raised the money, so everyone will be able to share the pups' progress."

As an extra treat, and to thank the pupils, puppy walker Linda Killick visited the school council with Labrador retriever Dash, who is already one year into his basic guide dog training.

A community fundraiser for Guide Dogs Cymru, Frank Greig, said: "Every life-changing guide dog starts off as a tiny, playful puppy, and now this class can follow our class of guide dog puppies in training."

Schools need to raise just £300 to sponsor a puppy. For more information, see www.guidedogs.org.uk/supportus/schools-and-clubs/sponsor-a-puppy-school/

Ghost has night off in Margam Castle tour!

BONT FAEN WI NEWS

BONT FAEN WI monthly social get together saw intrepid members, armed with torches, meeting at the gates of Margam Castle to take part in a ghost tour.

In bright moonlight, our guide, Jim Cowan, led us to the atmospheric ruins of Margam Abbey, scene of many a glimpse of white robed monks over the years.

We made our way up a steep path to the gothic splendour of Margam Castle, the home of the Talbot family, the combination of bad luck and a curse leaving the castle the empty shell it is

now.

Standing in the huge empty hall with the moonlight flowing through the glassless windows, we listened for the faint echoes of the voices of the tragic Talbot children.

Making our way up the impressive stone stairway, we waited in the dark for a glimpse of the resident ghost, who seemed to have the night off.

We all returned safely to our cars!

Our next meeting is on November 21 at 8pm at the Lesser Hall, the 'history of Christmas cards'. New members and visitors most welcome.

DS

Great work of Bridgend's night time pastors

WHEN most of us are heading for bed, that is when Street Pastors are putting on their reflective jackets and heading out for trouble spots in the town.

For their autumn talk on Friday, November 15, Churches Together in Cowbridge asked Gerald Manners of Bridgend to speak about the work of Pastors.

Gerald has been a street pastor for about six years, leaving his home on a Friday and Saturday night at 10pm and patrolling in groups of four: two men and two women, supporting and helping any vulnerable people, from age 12 and upwards, who might have got in to difficult or dangerous situations.

Since the street pastors began

working in Bridgend, the number of street fights and other trouble has been hugely reduced, and countless young people have been guided away from ending up in a police cell for the night.

Over time, this has also resulted in big savings in police time and money.

The groups on the street, who may not get home before 4am, are supported all the time by prayer partners who pray for their safety and success in their work with those they encounter.

There was a lively question and answer session at the end of this impressive talk, and we all went home with a great deal to think about.

There was a collection at the end with about £55 generously donated which will be given to the DEC Philippines typhoon disaster appeal.

RS

Wick painter's Malvern exhibition



LEFT: A self portrait by Michael Hardwick.

LOCAL oil painter Michael A Hardwick from the village of Wick will have an exhibition of his work at the Malvern Galleries, Worcestershire, throughout December and January.

His work was previously at The Royal Institute of Oil Painters The Mall Galleries London. Both Michael and his partner Sue George, who is also a painter, exhibit their work through a Cotswolds art gallery and both have been delighted with the response to their new works.

Choral Society's Christmas celebration

TICKETS for the Cowbridge Choral Society Christmas Celebration are now on sale from the box office, telephone 01446 792175, and Davies newsgents, the High Street, priced at £7 to include a glass of wine.

The concert is on the evening of December 7 in Holy Cross Church and has a varied programme of popular and less well known

Christmas music.

The choir is joined by special guests Old Spice, the Barbershop quartet; Rhianon Burke, soloist; Stage Door 1, the local youth group, and The Belles of St Mary's, the town hand bell ringers.

New members are always welcome to join the choir, and experience is not essential. Rehearsals take place in the United Reform Church, Westgate St (opposite the Police Station) every Thursday at 7.30pm.

@gem_news



A FESTIVE LOOK AT HOLTON ROAD



Holton Road businesses are preparing for the busiest Christmas in years!

FOR more than a century Holton Road, and its sister streets, such as Regent Street and Thompson Street, have been a key Christmas shopping destination for Barry residents.

The variety of businesses is impressive – and the majority of them are run by local people, employ-

ing local people.

Supermarkets and multiple retailers may have their place, but so do the independents, which source their stock with particular care, and provide the very best service, because the owner's living depends on building up a reliable client base.

Add in the fact that the economy is back in growth and it means traders are looking forward to their busiest festive period since 2008.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

One business that fulfils those principles is JPL Sound - The Barry Music Shop.

Over the years, John Lewis and his staff have developed a reputation for good, straightforward advice on musical instruments and equipment.

Many people want to buy a young family member a musical instrument as a Christmas gift and are tempted to purchase over the internet.

But that can cause complications when the instrument arrives and is not set up correctly. What then? Internet companies by their very nature are more distant, and the chances of speaking directly to someone to sort out a problem are remote.

Why go through all that, when John and his staff can give all the expert advice needed face to face,

order the item, and check everything is in good working order when it arrives.

It means there are no big Christmas Day disappointments.

The shop always has festive offers and provides excellent service because it wants repeat business.

JPL Sound - The Barry Music Shop is well known not just in Barry but throughout south Wales for the numerous events it helps with its sound systems.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

Eighteen months ago, The Old Post Office Coffee Shop opened. In the past the premises were known as Weston Hill Post Office.

Lisa Eveleigh's vision was to create a community hub where local people would get to know each other, and which would serve as a base for local groups.

The venture has thrived thanks to Lisa's bubbly personality and the enthusiasm of her staff.

She explained: "We've got regulars who love our breakfasts, meals and snacks."

"The atmosphere is always friendly and welcoming, and community groups are meeting in the coach house and our rooms at the back."

Lisa makes Christmas a special time for customers with traditional decorations and coffee shop 'specials'.

This year, she's even providing inspirational ornamental gifts for a customer's Welsh dresser or mantelpiece, bearing life-affirming sayings like 'Love changes everything' and 'Enjoy the moments that make you smile.'

Lisa opens at 8.30am – so make a date for breakfast, a snack or lunch – you won't be disappointed!

PETS LOVE CHRISTMAS TOO!

One of Barry's most popular shops is Pets R Us on Regent Street (directly opposite Thompson Street) run by Steve Lane.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



ABOVE:

If you are buying a musical instrument for a member of your family, going to JPL - The Barry Music Shop will provide all the advice and back-up you need.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Steve and his staff are trusted because they all have specialist knowledge and he is always seeking to innovate and provide the customers with that little bit extra.

"We now have a 'pick up' service for dog grooming," Steve told The GEM.

"For just £5 we will collect your dog for your appointment from your home and take it back after the session."

For, time-pressed dog owners it is a real bonus.

Steve emphasised that the shop has everything a dog owner could possibly want at the festive time of year.

"We've got lots of Christmas toys, treats and coats."

"Of course, we supply the best specialist dog foods such as Royal Canin, James Wellbeloved, Burns, and Proplan."

But Pets R Us also caters for the small animal lover too - it has a large selection of rabbits, hamsters, guinea pigs and birds; it also supplies coldwater and tropical fish.

There's no need to worry about any equipment for your pets either because 'set-up' equipment is also available.

Tropical fish and a tank are always a great gift for a person who wants the sense of calm it provides a lounge or living room.

Steve prides himself on very competitive prices, and has even diversified, introducing Magic Mist electronic

cigarettes with dozens of flavours.

FOUR STAR!

Just across the road on Holton Road, HQ2 is celebrating 10 years of success.

It is rated a four-star salon by The Good Salon Guide.

Jaydene, who has been the manager for six years, said: "We have five members of staff, and they are qualified to the highest standards."

HQ2 provides the best service for ladies preparing for special Christmas events whether in precision cutting, colouring, foils or hair-up.

The salon uses the very top products on the market too, like Balmian for great hair extensions, and Opti Smooth for hair straightening.

NOSTALGIA
Nearby, Retro Vibe Music provides real nostalgia with sounds from all the legendary performers and often in the original music-playing format.

Inspired by Claire Williams and Mark Owen, Retro Vibe is an independent record shop selling all kinds of

vinyl records, CDs, 78 rpm classical records and memorabilia.

Just walking onto the premises, and seeing all those familiar record covers is a wonderful trip down memory lane. For more information, go to:

www.Retro-vibemusic.com.

The Trade Appliance and Cookware Centre on Tynewydd Road, offers competitive prices on a large range of white goods including washing machines, tumble dryers, refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers and microwaves.

This is the time of year when people often need a heater or want to



ABOVE: The Trade Appliance and Cookware Centre offers top deals on an extensive range of white goods.

buy a new oven or range for Christmas cooking - there's no need to go outside Barry because it is all on your doorstep. For more information, visit www.1stchoicetrade.co.uk.

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google - Room 71

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ORDER, SECTION 16A ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS - KING'S SQUARE, BARRY SATURDAY 30th NOVEMBER 2013

Order Under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 For the prevention of obstruction etc

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that The Vale of Glamorgan Council has made an Order under Section 16A, Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as follows:

WHEREAS the Vale of Glamorgan Council as Highway Authority is satisfied that traffic on the streets or parts thereof as listed in column 2 of the Schedule should be restricted to enable the holding of a relevant event, the Council, pursuant to the powers conferred by Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, do **HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT** in order to facilitate the holding of the event, enable members of the public to watch the said event and to reduce the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by the event the following regulations shall be observed:-

THAT, except as provided by the order, the said streets or parts thereof listed in schedule 1 shall be closed to all vehicular traffic including pedal cycles with the exception of Emergency Services vehicles and resident permit holders between the hours specified in column 3 of the schedule. The penalty for infringement of this regulation is a fine not exceeding £1,000.

Schedule

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Saturday 30th November 2013	The area to be closed is Holton Road Barry from its junction with Ty-Newydd Road to a point 50m east of its junction with Llantwit Street.	18.00 - 19.30

Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times.

Dated this 21st day of November 2013

M. E. Punter, Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA



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A FESTIVE LOOK AT HOLTON ROAD

Father Christmas is coming to Ruckleys!



Ruckleys at 45 Holton Road supplies every sort of product any proud parent might need.

RUCKLEYS at 45 Holton Road is the one-stop shop for young mums and dads.

It has prams, baby clothing, baby supplies, school uniforms, outfits for bridesmaids and pageboys and children's shoes.

But to top it all, Father Christmas is coming to Ruckleys this festive season. Youngsters can meet him in the store on Saturdays and Sundays in December.

The owner, Faye Ruckley, said: "Father Christmas will be at the store on Saturday, December 7 and 14, from 10am until 5pm, and Sunday, December 8 and 15, from 11am to 4pm.

"Mums and dads are welcome to bring their cameras along to capture their little one's delight on the day." Tickets are £4.50.



LEFT: The Old Post Office Coffee Shop & Food to Go, situated at the top of Holton Road has become a popular meeting place for the Barry community with a warm welcome guaranteed by Lisa and the staff.

A Taste of Christmas at The Old Post Office Coffee Shop

239 Holton Road, Barry - 01446 730116

All Sessions pre-bookable only

THE SANTA EXPERIENCE - £10

This includes a personal visit with Santa and reply to your letter, Photo, Present and a Burger in a bun, Ice Cream and a Drink (Please bring your child's letter to Santa and payment when you book)

CHILDREN'S COOKERY SESSION - £10

Chocolate Log, 'Reindeer' Sandwiches, Gingerbread Tree Decorations, Burger in a bun, Ice Cream and a Drink (1 1/2 - 2 hour session)

CHILDREN'S CRAFT SESSION - £10

Christmas Tree Decorations, Christmas cards Burger in a bun, Ice Cream and a Drink (1 1/2 - 2 hour session)

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CHRISTMAS MENU

SOUP, ROLL & BUTTER (£2.50)

Broccoli & Stilton - Carrot & Coriander - Tomato & Basil Sandwich (£2.30) Toastie (£2.60) Baguette (£3.00) Panini (£3.50) Turkey, Bacon, Sausage, Cranberry Sauce & Stuffing Beef, Mushroom, Onion & Wholegrain Mustard Ham & Cheese with Cranberry & Caramelised Red Onion Chutney Seasonal Seafood • Bacon, Brie and Cranberry

CHEESEBOARD and MULLED WINE for TWO (£12)

A selection of five Cheeses served with Crackers, Grapes and Christmas Chutney Mulled Wine is non-alcoholic

Also Cooked Breakfast served as usual from 8.30am - 5.00pm (Mon-Fri); 8.30am-3.00pm (Sat)

The Big One - 9 items & Tea or Coffee & Toast - £5.50

The Small One - 5 items & Tea or Coffee & Toast - £3.95

All food is cooked on a Griddle for you... Nothing is Fried.

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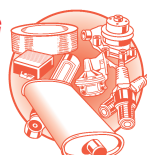
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A FESTIVE LOOK AT HOLTON ROAD

La Cucina – Holton Road's popular place to meet up with friends

LA CUCINA Coffee House and Eatery has been a fixture in Barry for more than a decade – first in High Street, and now in Holton Road, on the corner of Regent Street.

For shoppers wanting a moment to rest weary feet, local office workers out for a lunch break or friends just meeting friends, it is the ideal place to have a meal, snack or coffee.

Ferda, the owner, emphasised: "We provide a relaxed, friendly, welcoming atmosphere for people."

"They appreciate the fact that we are a business here for the long term with roots in the town."

Over the past few years, Ferda has strived to keep his prices competitive – aware that people have been struggling in the era of austerity.



La Cucina offers a huge range of 'hot refreshments' – a bewitching range of coffees and teas – and 'cold refreshments', milkshakes, organic juices, cokes, and sparkling water.

It has a huge choice of toasted paninis, and 'special' paninis, sandwiches, breakfasts, bagels, jacket potatoes, salads and hot dishes. La Cucina takes pride in providing quality food, served in a spotless environment.

Ferda added: "I would like to thank all my customers and wish them a very happy Christmas."

La Cucina takes pride in providing quality food, served in a spotless environment.

Ferda added: "I would like to thank all my customers and wish them a very happy Christmas."

ABOVE:
Why not pay a visit to Ferda and the staff at La Cucina? They offer high quality food, served in a welcoming and friendly atmosphere.

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Tiffin Rasoi is up for the 'Curry Oscars'



A BARRY takeaway is in line for a 'Curry Oscar' in a national contest! One of Barry's highly rated Indian takeaways, Tiffin Rasoi located on Holton Road, has been short-listed for the 'Best Delivery Takeaway in UK' award at the British Curry Awards 2013.

A total of 263,000 nominations have been received from members of the public this year.

The awards have been praised by Prime Minister David Cameron who dubbed them the 'Curry Oscars'.

Event director, Justine Ali, said: "This year's British Curry Awards will be even more spectacular than ever before. The event has become a major fixture on the UK's social calendar. "Celebrities, VIPs and

members of the hospitality and catering fraternity will celebrate the achievements of the unsung heroes behind the UK's most popular cuisine."

Mr Rahman, owner of Tiffin Rasoi, said: "Tiffin Rasoi is a premier Indian takeaway offering pure, fresh and healthy Indian food with no artificial colours or flavours. The menu integrates both traditional favourites with new and creative dishes which are freshly prepared."

The results for the British Curry Awards will be announced at a glittering black tie gala dinner at one of London's biggest and most prestigious venues, Battersea Evolution in Battersea Park Lane, on Monday, November 25.

The event will be broadcast to more than 200 countries through Star Plus, BBC and other channels.

Tiffin Rasoi, 37 Holton Road, Barry; www.tiffinrasoi.com.

NEWS FROM FONMON APIARY

Mite remains a big threat to beekeepers worldwide

IS winter just around the corner? You would not think so. Thanks to the mild conditions my bees along with many others are still very active.

Persistent rain (heavy at times), and the strong winds, have kept the colony from foraging, but as soon as there is a calm spell, out come the foragers and they are returning with much pollen.

There is a fair amount of ivy in my area and the bees are availing themselves of its pollen and nectar; however, I have been feeding several colonies to ensure that sufficient stores will be on hand to see them through the coming winter.

Varroa treatments have been carried out, and mite trays are in place in some of the hives.

The collecting of the debris that falls through the mesh floor into the trays is removed and taken back home where I can inspect it and count the Varroa that have succumbed to the medication (Apiguard).

When I query other beekeepers with regard to the number of mites they have counted on inspecting their debris, I am surprised that the numbers are always very low i.e. 20 or less.

My counts reveal several thousand per hive. Am I singularly unfortunate do you think?

Well let us look at the application of the control medication; at present I am using Apiguard. This is government approved and widely used throughout the beekeeping world.

It is applied as a two-dose treatment (foil packs): the first application is left in situ for some 14 days, then the second dose (pack) is introduced and left for a similar period.

It is my practice to

remove the tray debris after the first treatment then collect it again on completion of the second treatment.

The Apiguard is very effective and consequently I have many dead mites in the trays.

Counting mites is somewhat tedious and I can well understand a reluctance to carry it out, however, by doing so the true extent of a colony infestation can be appreciated.

A female Varroa mite can easily go through three reproductive cycles within her life span, each cycle can lead to three to four daughters emerging into the beehive and they in their turn will start producing their own offspring and increasing the infestation.

If you have a strong colony, ie 60,000/70,000 bees at the height of the season you can bank on it that Varroa are also present in large numbers.

Those of us who have been beekeeping for many years, and those who are just beginning, must become aware that the Varroa mite is still the biggest threat to the beekeeping world.

We are not winning the battle, we are only holding this mite at bay. It is well named VARROA DESTRUCTOR. Do attempt an accurate mite count. You will be alarmed! And will hopefully become a better informed beekeeper.

This year has had something of a summer for a change. The bees have responded to the improved weather pattern and I have strong colonies facing the coming winter, what will the spring of next year hold?

In fact, what will the rest of this year hold in store for us? If the mild temperatures persist the colonies could be active the year round. How will we, the beekeepers respond to that?

Harold Williams.

High praise for CAB volunteers

CARDIFF and Vale Citizens Advice Bureau was pleased to celebrate its 11th Annual General Meeting on Friday, November 1 in the Civic Offices, Barry.

Over the last year, the bureau has delivered a range of services in both the Vale and Cardiff, which has led to changing the bureau name to Cardiff and Vale CAB.

The keynote speaker was Rachel Connor, executive director of

the Vale Council for Voluntary Services, who spoke about the challenges and opportunities of the voluntary sector, particularly when funding is being squeezed.

Vale AM, Jane Hutt, who is a great supporter of the service, attended the AGM and made presentations to three long serving members who had each volunteered for 10 years: John Greateorex, Peter Whiting and Malcolm Francis.

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NIZAMI HANDI .. £6.30
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MURGH MALAI TIKKA .. £6.30
Chicken tikka cooked in a mild almond and coconut flavoured sauce with paneer and lychees.

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MD2 • A GRAND MEAL FOR 2 • £20
Any 2 Starters • Any 2 Mains* • 2 Pulao Rice
1 Plain Naan • 1 Side Dish

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For latest news, menu and special offers visit our website

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BEST QUALITY • ONE AND ONLY • AWARD WINNING

Out and About with The GEM

McCarthy's Counsellor a waste of time and talent!

THE author Cormac McCarthy's works have been rich for cinematic plucking, with the likes of *No Country For Old Men*, *All The Pretty Horses* and *The Road* all making the journey from page to big screen.

McCarthy has taken the plunge with his first original screenplay, teaming up with director Ridley Scott for *The Counsellor*, a story about the title character (played by Michael Fassbender) whose life takes a turn for the dangerous when he becomes involved in the world of drug trafficking...

Given the success of the adaptations of his books, the prestige of

having as esteemed a writer as Cormac McCarthy delivering his first ever original screenplay would be massive.

Add in Ridley Scott in the director's chair, an all-star cast and you have all the makings of a surefire hit, even a film that will be bumping noses with other frontrunners at the Academy Awards.

No doubt this may all have happened in a parallel world; in our universe, however, the result of this (on paper) most impressive of unions is the most unimpressive of films, a piece of work so in love with McCarthy's poetic prose that any other necessary elements of the script (character depth, narrative drive) are left ignored.

Instead, we have an incredibly loose narrative that affords us no



by GARETH JAMIESON
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insight into the characters. Rather than being fully fleshed out pieces manoeuvred by McCarthy into predicaments that emphasise the moral ambiguity that he deals in so well, we just have a series of talking heads delivering monologues as if they are auditioning for an

acting college.

It does showcase the writer's ability to deliver on dialogue, but it fails to actually get the story motoring in any particular direction.

Characters pop up seemingly only for the chance to deliver some clever speech, laced with metaphor and impending doom, before vanishing again with no real relevance to what is taking place.

While these talking heads are easily the starriest bunch to have been gathered at the altar of McCarthy, the performances very rarely transcend 'risible'. Michael Fassbender, an actor whose work I greatly admire, offers his poorest performance yet, all mannered acting tics and faux emotion, as the title character who, thanks to McCarthy, fails to make us

empathise in his plight, while Brad Pitt plays himself in a stetson.

Penelope Cruz is virtually non-existent, Cameron Diaz delivers a bewitching if slight spin on the femme fatale archetype, while Javier Bardem opts for kookiness rather than substance in his role as a drug dealer who is friends with Fassbender's character.

Given the emphasis on dialogue, Ridley Scott seems all at sea here, his trademark visual power toned down to accommodate the multitude of 'talky' scenes, with only the occasional burst of what he does best.

If *The Counsellor* had restrained its overly verbose nature and used the dialogue to offer exposition rather than McCarthy's views, then it could have been a more appealing offering; as it is, it may talk the talk, but it certainly doesn't walk the walk.

VERDICT - A waste of time and talent, and less of a film and more a series of dialogue-heavy two-handers. *The Counsellor* is a huge let-down. Cormac McCarthy's works may be hot property to adapt, but his first original screenplay offering is leaden and dull. With almost anonymous direction from Ridley Scott and nary a decent turn among the starry cast, this a gigantic misfire of a film. Avoid.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Traffic* (2000), *No Country For Old Men* (2007).

WHAT'S ON & WHERE?

Valeways walks

ON Thursday, November 28 at 10am, 'The tale of a parrot', three-hour walk, starting from the Barley Mow pub, Craig Penllyn.

Romilly School festive fayre
ROMILLY Primary School's Christmas fayre is on Sunday, November 24, from 1pm-4pm.

Craft stalls, children's games, Santa's grotto, refreshments, fun for all the family!

Llandow village Christmas bazaar

LLANDOW Village Hall is holding a 'Grand Christmas Bazaar' on Sunday, November 24 from 2pm to 4pm.

Cards, crafts, produce, refreshments and lots more!

Free entrance.

'Technocamp' at Cowbridge
CALLING all 11 to 19-year-olds!

Technocamps@Cowbridge Library - Lego Robot Session takes place on Saturday November 30 at 11.30am to 2.30pm.

Technocamps is an exciting project that teaches young people programming, robotics, game design, app development and much more.

This event is free but you must reserve a place. To book call 01446 773941, or book in person at the library.

Councillors' surgeries
ADVICE surgeries for the Oldcastle ward in

Bridgend are being held jointly by Councillors Edith Hughes and Councillor Gareth Phillips.

They take place on the first Saturday of every month at the Bridgend Lifesavers Credit Union Ltd Office, 1 Station Hill, Bridgend, at 10.30am-11.30am and the last Wednesday of every month at the Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend at 4pm-5pm. No appointments are necessary.

School's

Christmas fair
ALL Saints Church in Wales Primary School, Cwm Talwg, is holding its Christmas Fair on Friday, November 29 at 3.30pm.

There will be stalls, gifts, games, refreshments and a Father Christmas Grotto.

St Richard Gwyn's Christmas

fayre
ST RICHARD GWYN Catholic High School, Argae Lane, Barry, is holding its Christmas fayre on December 4 from 6.30pm-8pm in the school hall.

All items have been made by the pupils as part of their Welsh Baccalaureate course.

Coffee morning

A COFFEE morning is to be held at Llantrithyd House (CF71 7UB),

Llantrithyd, by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Paul Dolan on Saturday, November 23, 10.30am-12 noon.

There will be cakes, puddings, jams and other items suitable for Christmas. Entry is £4 on the door.

Proceeds go to the major restoration fund for St Illtyd's Church, Llantrithyd. All are welcome.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D801:

● £2,000: 279188.
● The rollover, which now stands at £11,000, was not won this week.

● £10: 6 7 5 9 2 5, 599438, 852484, 980418, 784011, 734925, 351111, 523015, 461592, 600739, 341481, 886291, 680725, 641022, 369140, 937706, 558926, 927387, 289796, 809414.

● £5: 865740, 634772, 475270, 755398, 710356, 349128, 715941, 312276, 484272, 887581, 605598, 213816, 129081, 266897, 627539, 388393.

767187, 817062, 146426, 336921, 140989, 151688, 294716, 998717, 266396, 514762, 106468, 868911, 527223, 287248, 218142, 427593, 189070, 237738, 395580, 113591, 421748, 680102, 491188, 679297, 897427, 557563, 248846, 563131, 693434, 545174, 853556, 524067, 512495, 302796, 314242, 222986, 496284, 882368, 627005, 956085, 557002, 219201.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

Christmas festival at Memo Arts

START celebrating Christmas with a special festive extravaganza at the Memo Arts Centre on Saturday, November 23.

The Memo will be packed with over 35 festive craft, gift and vintage stalls, along with a Santa's Grotto, North Pole Post Office, Vintage Tea Room, children's film screenings, and lots of fun for all.

Santa's elves and

helpers will be on hand to discuss wish lists, stamp and post Santa letters, and oversee your grotto appointment with the main man himself, Father Christmas!

The Memo Arts Centre's Christmas festival takes place on Saturday, November 23 between 11am and 5pm, with free admission to the Christmas festival and fayre. Santa's Grotto tickets are £6, and can be booked in advance from the Memo.

Open day at wartime museum

THIS Sunday, November 24, the Barry Island-based Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre celebrates its first anniversary by holding a community open day.

Barry at War spokesman Ade Pitman said: "Historians of Barry have long been lobbying for the creation of a museum in the town, and yet although an Options Appraisal was commissioned by the Vale Council a few years ago, the area is still no closer to establishing one.

"Because of this, Barry at War partnered with the Barry Tourist Railway to establish the Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre at Barry Island Railways Station.

"Initially we had an empty room in need of decoration, but with the generosity of visitors and a team of volunteers well versed in using wartime austerity to 'make do and mend', we have been able to create a museum to Glamorgan's wartime heritage that is steadily becoming a learning resource for local schools, and a place to deposit the wartime memoirs of local people.

"Not only have we created a wartime museum, but we have used the venue to commemorate many local wartime events, such as the Dambuster's Raid and

the Borough of Barry purchasing a Spitfire for the Royal Air Force. Along with the role played by Barry's Merchant Navy Men, these things need to be remembered as they help to foster a pride in our area.

"Next year marks the commemoration of several key events such as the outbreak of the First World War, and the 70th anniversary of the Normandy D-Day landings. We hope to achieve some grant funding next year to help us to support these events, and the many others in the coming years.

This Sunday's open day aims to highlight how we have worked with community and heritage groups from across the Vale, and many of these will be displaying how they play a role in the community.

"There will also be a militia bazaar, so collectors may be able to find items for their collections.

"The Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre will open its doors to the public at 11am on Sunday, November 24. Admission, as always is free.

"To find out more see our website at www.wartimeglamor-gan.co.uk or call Ade Pitman on 07930 874161."

Songwriters in Penarth

PENARTH Songwriters' Circle presents Amy Wadge, John Lewis and Rob Lear at All Saints Church Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, on Friday, November 29.

The bi-monthly event which has brought some of the finest singer-songwriters in the country to Penarth over the last year, will welcome award winning, song-writing dynamo Amy Wadge, local hero and rockabilly legend John Lewis and recent BBC Radio Wales 'Artist Of The Week', Rob Lear.

Amy was voted best female solo artist at the Welsh Music Awards in 2002 and 2003, beating Charlotte Church and Cerys Matthews.

John Lewis is well established, not only in his native Penarth but around the world, from his younger days with Welsh Rockabilly legends The Rimshots, with whom he recorded several albums.

Rob Lear has been making a name for himself with recent plaudits from BBC Radio Wales, who awarded him 'Welsh Single Of The Week'. Rob's passion and self-penned emotionally driven songs have helped him build a growing catalogue of live sessions on national and independent radio.

Tickets are available in advance from Pencerdd Music, Station Approach, Penarth, and Spillers Records, Cardiff. Doors open 7.30pm and the performance starts 8.15pm. For more information see www.facebook.com/PenarthSongwritersCircle.

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Llantwit Major at Christmas



LLANTWIT MAJOR IS 'MOST IMPROVED TOWN CENTRE IN THE VALE' - TRADER

THIS year's Christmas shopping season has arrived at a time when retailers in Llantwit Major are more buoyant and optimistic about trading conditions than they have been for years.

The reason? Well, a number of projects that have been long in the pipeline are bearing fruit, and are making what was already an attractive Vale town, with a real sense of history at its heart, into a 'destination' - as the current jargon likes to say.

The most recent - and one which has attracted a lot of recent

publicity - is the opening of the Galilee Chapel at St Illtud's Church.

This is the type of project that can really raise the profile of a town - but more on that later.

Another change is that a refurbishment of the Poundfield shopping precinct on Boverton Road is now complete, and traders say that it has really changed the feel of the town.

Another factor is the the Vale of Glamorgan Railway line is becoming better-known, and a number of retailers told The GEM that they were seeing more customers who had made the trip from Barry, Rhosce, or Bridgend.

Finally, the town was given the good

by PHILIP IRWIN

news this week that £22 million is to be spent on its schools - with £15 million going to the secondary school, and two new primary schools being built as well.

Traders see this as a statement of faith in Llantwit Major, and they feel the same towards a town where local people support local shops - and these shops in turn give a good deal to their clientele.

Stuart Sloan, who runs Sloan & Co in the Poundfield precinct, told The GEM: "I think the town is looking the best it has in years, and I really think it is the most improved town centre in the Vale."

"There have never been so few empty shops in the town, and there is so much variety."

"We have an ice cream parlour now, and we have really expanded the range of furniture and curtain shops."

He said that a major factor was that the rent and rates in Llantwit Major were lower than in other shopping centres, and that this gave retailers the chance to offer better deals to customers.

A good example of how the town has tackled the issue of attracting new businesses is the 'pop up shop' concept trialled by Filco supermarkets, who own and manage the Poundfield shopping precinct.

This meant that units in the precinct were offered on a short term lease, and this has proved successful.



ABOVE: The interior at Sloan & Co.

A good example of this is Sarah Llewellyn, who runs Mariette's Antique French Furniture.

She opened up last year, offering a distinctive mix of antique furniture, with a variety of art and craft items - the latter range full of Christmas gifts at a variety of prices.

However, things

went so well that she has now moved out and has taken a regular lease on a larger unit nearby.

She said: "I think the Filco idea of pop up units was brilliant. Once I started trading, things went so well that I was able to move to a bigger premises."

That bigger premises gave her the chance to expand the business, and it has a ground floor showroom, and a

first floor where she is kept busy repainting furniture.

There was, however, a further spin off from Sarah's pop up shop experiment. She was friends with Nicola and Gareth Punter, who run a furniture showroom, Home Comforts, in Llangan, and they decided to move into her vacant unit!

CONTINUED
ON PAGE 23

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Llantwit Major at Christmas



SHOPPING LOCAL MAKES GOOD SENSE



Nicky Foster is Health Conscious...

St Athan community car boot/table top sale this weekend

A carboot/table top sale is being held at St Athan Community Centre on Sunday, November 24, from 10am to 1pm.

Sellers can start arriving at 9am – £5 a table, to book, contact Ceri on 077002 566 080 or Anita on 07842 619228.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

Gareth said: "This was an ideal move for us. The pop up shop has been open for a few weeks now, and I would like to thank the people of Llantwit Major, who have been welcoming and keen to support a new local business.

"Here in Llantwit, our hand-made lamps have been very successful, but the idea is that we can showcase different items from our 2,000 sq ft showroom in Llangan.

"We are also encouraged that people from Llantwit are taking the opportunity to visit the Llangan showroom after seeing the sort of goods we supply."

Take a stroll around Llantwit and you can't help notice the range of businesses. Also, as the historic old town is so close by, it is an ideal venue for a relaxed shopping experience.

If you feel like taking a break, there is a wide variety of restau-

rants and cafes in the town, and plenty of traditional pubs.

Stuart Sloan commented on this, saying: "We haven't lost a single pub in Llantwit, and if you look at many other towns, you will find that quite a number have ceased trading.

"It shows that the loyalty of local people, plus the increasing number of visitors, is keeping the town buoyant."

One pub that is moving in a slightly different direction is the Old White Hart, where new owners George and Elenid Carlig are introducing a dining menu to what has always been a 'traditional' pub.

Elenid said: "We have been here five months and are really pleased with the reception we have had".

Peta Shields is another local entrepreneur who tested the water in Llantwit and has enjoyed a good reaction.

She has been running a monthly craft and gift fair in the Llantonian Hall, and she is pleased with how things have gone.

She said: "The good thing about Llantwit is that it is not just local people who are supportive. I have noticed plenty of shoppers from Rhosce, Barry and Bridgend coming to the fairs."

This month, with Christmas approaching, Peta is holding two fairs in the Llantonian Hall. The first is on November 30 (10am-3pm) and the second is on December 14 (also 10am-3pm), but for the first event she will need to be in two places at once!

She explained: "November 30 features a number of events in the town, with entertainment in the streets and a lantern parade.

"I have a second craft fair taking place on that day, this time in St Illtud's Church, starting at 2pm."

So many of the traders in Llantwit Major have a real sense of identity with the town, and many live there as well.

Angela Battick of Vale Podiatry is one who lives in the town, and she and her daughter opened the business 18 months ago.

She said: "Business has picked up steadily and we have had a good reaction from local people. Having said that, I have noticed a good number of

clients coming from Rhosce and Barry, which shows what a good place Llantwit is. "You can really get everything you need here."

Another local businesswoman who has a strong connection with the town is Clare Price, another long-time resident who finds Llantwit an excellent base for her photography business.

As she does portraits, weddings and works with businesses all over south Wales, she travels around but still prefers Llantwit.

She said: "You can get everything you need on your doorstep, with pharmacists, shoe repairs, books and everything readily available."

"My dad came here in 1945 and never left, and now my children go to local schools, and belong to some of the great clubs in the town, including the Surf Life Saving Club, which is brilliant for kids."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24



Home Comforts pop up shop in the Poundfield Precinct.

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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ORDER, SECTION 16A ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

LLANTWIT MAJOR CHRISTMAS EVENT

SATURDAY 30th NOVEMBER 2013

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Vale of Glamorgan Council have made an order under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as follows:-

WHEREAS during certain hours of the day and date specified in columns 1 of the Schedule hereto the streets or part thereof listed in column 2 of the said schedule will be used for the holding of a relevant event as described in Section 16A(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Council, pursuant to the powers conferred by Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 do HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT in order to facilitate the holding of the event, enable members of the public to watch the said event and to reduce the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by the event the following regulation shall be observed:-

THAT, except as provided by the order, the said streets or parts thereof shall be closed to all vehicular traffic including pedal cycles with the exception of Emergency Services and Coastguard vehicles between the hours specified in column 3 of the said schedule. The penalty for infringement of the said regulation is a fine not exceeding £1000.00

Schedule

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Saturday 30th November 2013	Wine Street, south of Wesley Street Church Street, throughout its length Church Lane, throughout its length College Gardens, throughout its length College Street, throughout its length The un-named lane that runs through the Town Hall car park from its junction with Church Street (next to the Town Hall) in a south westerly direction through the car park to the south eastern boundary of a property known as the Old Bakehouse. Colhugh Street from its junctions with Church Street for a distance of 40m. in a southerly direction. Burial Lane, throughout its length The Strand, to the west of Commercial Street	From 2.00pm To 9.00pm

Local signed diversions shall be in place. Dated this 21st day of November 2013

M. E. Punter, Director of Visible Services & Housing
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Llantwit Major at Christmas



TOWN'S HERITAGE IS A BIG PLUS FOR FUTURE OF LLANTWIT MAJOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

Another retailer who is happy in Llantwit is Nicky Foster of Health Conscious, where she offers a wide range of herbs and spices for cooking, and dietary supplements that can boost the immune system, and many other products which offer health benefits.

She has been trading in the town for three years and specifically chose Llantwit because she knew that a high proportion of residents shop locally.

She said: "It really is a two way thing. Local people support me and that means I can stock goods that save them from having to travel to buy."

Earlier, I mentioned the restoration of the Galilee Chapel, which adjoins St Illtud's Church, and this is a development that could



ABOVE: The Celtic stones on display in the Galilee Chapel. (Photograph by Malcolm Nugent).

be quite a big deal for the town.

St Illtud's has always been one of Llantwit's gems, but now that a determined fundraising effort has been able to restore the chapel, it has something very special for visitors.

For centuries, the church has been home to a collection of ancient Celtic crosses, but now they are being displayed at their best in the Galilee Chapel.

The chapel is set to become not only a must-see tourist destination, but also an educational centre, where local schools will come to learn about the history of St Illtud, now

acknowledged to be the pioneer of Celtic Christianity.

At the official opening, Llantwit's Rev Butler said: "The early Celtic medieval inscribed stones speak of saints and kings educated at Llanilltud Fawr and are witness to the unbroken continuity of prayer and worship on this holy site for over 1,500 years."

It is remarkable to think that 15 centuries ago, the site marked the place of a monastic university where 3,000 students studied in seven halls of residence, and there were 800 wooden cells with only a tiny wooden church for

prayer and meditation.

Heritage tourism is popular these days, and Llantwit has been identified as a key 'destination' for tourists. Add to that the fact that the town is a great base for walking holidays, and there is every reason for retailers to look forward with optimism.

At a time when trading is highly competitive, Llantwit Major has become a fine base for independent-minded shopkeepers to offer visitors and locals an excellent retail experience.

In this town, supporting your local business really makes sense!

More attractions are booked for Christmas festival!

THE organisers of this year's Christmas festival in Llantwit Major, are organising more attractions as the countdown continues to the day of festive fun on Saturday, November 30.

The festival will include the traditional lantern parade, theatrical performances, a children's entertainment area, a Nativity at St Illtud's Church, craft fair, and carol singing, with things happening between 2pm and 9pm.

Santa will be making a spectacular entrance at 4pm!

Last week, the Llantwit events committee chairman Byron Evans appealed for volunteers to attend a meeting in the town to help with organisation on the day, and he was delighted with the response.

Byron said: "We had around 15 volunteers and want to thank them for coming along to the meeting."

He went on: "We have more entertain-

ments booked as well. One is a fire stunt show featuring Joseph Peace who has appeared at top venues such as Glastonbury. He will do two shows, one at 5pm, and another one at 7pm. They last for half an hour each.

"We've also got a fun Santa challenge a 'bucking reindeer', like bucking Bronco, with a prize for the person who stays on the longest."

Byron said that due to circumstances beyond the committee's control, there won't be as many illuminations as in the past.

However, lots of attractions are planned, with entertainment and activities taking place in the old town square and a treasure hunt taking place in the rest of the town centre.

If you would like to get involved in the event, or would like to make a donation, contact the organisers at Cloggs, Llantwit Major, telephone 01446 793360; or go to 'Llantwit Events' on Facebook.

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Pupils receive high praise from RSPB

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WE have been working extremely hard over the past year to develop the school's outdoor learning environment. We believe that being a rural school and serving many farming communities, part of our role is to teach the children in the 'great outdoors', which in turn enhances the teaching and learning that takes place in Llangan Primary School.

We are very lucky in the support that we receive from members of our community in Llangan, Treoes, Penllyn and Graig Penllyn (and further afield).

We have established a 'Dad's Club' where fathers and grandfathers who are willing to give a helping hand are working

LLANGAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

alongside staff and pupils to develop the school.

So far this year we have planted 160 trees in our copse, created disabled access vegetable plots, planted an orchard, a scientific 'stumpery', a 'lizard lounge' for our reptile friends, created an outdoor stage area and are currently in the process of erecting a poly tunnel... phew!

In recognition of all the hard work that has taken place recently in Llangan Primary, the RSPB has awarded the school with not one, but three awards.

The charity presented the school with the bronze, silver and gold RSPB Wildlife Awards. We have been recognised for the work that has been done to support wildlife in our school environment - with bat boxes, hedgehog homes and bird boxes. We look forward to welcoming these little critters as new

members of our school!

LLANGAN Primary School has been presented with an award by the Vale Council's family information service. Headteacher Steve Williams said: "We have been complimented on the way that we interact with families and work to create a team approach to the education of our children."

The award was presented to the school by the Vale Council's family information service officer, Teresa Harvey.

New library at Llangan

Primary School AS part of the Vale Council's cost cutting exercise, the school lost the use of the mobile library service.

This was a blow to the children as the nearest library is in Cowbridge. The cost of getting our children to the local library is roughly £100 per visit due to transportation costs, so understandably this is not financially viable.

After much planning and elbow grease, the school recently opened a central library which it is hoped will be used by families in our community, as we would love to see pupils, parents and grandparents using the school to develop their love of reading (whatever their age).

Again, we are very

grateful to our local community who have rallied together to help us create this wonderful space - Topstak donated six large beanbags for use both in the library and in our outdoor stage area when the weather improves.

Cowbridge library agreed to allow Mrs Shepherd to officially open the library and parent and Osborne independent book agent, Mrs Jenny Davies, organised a sponsored reading event which raised over £1,300 which was in turn used to buy new books for the library.

St Canna's Church, Llangan

OUR reception class was recently invited to St Canna's Church, Llangan, to sow wild flower seeds and to plant hundreds of bulbs which they did with gusto!

Come spring, we will again be visiting the church to see how our handiwork has helped improve the church. Our thanks go to Mrs Ruth Williams for inviting us to be part of this activity! SW

Charity group's great start

JENNER Park Primary School's 'Charity Crew' was launched in September 2013.

Charity Crew is a child run council in which pupils raise money for local and national charities, as well as the school itself. The pupils are encouraged to be involved in all aspects of fundraising, from thinking of ideas to acting on them.

The Charity Crew's first fundraising event was to hold a cake sale on Thursday, November 7 to raise money for Operation Christmas Child's Shoebox Appeal. The sum of £120 was raised which will help to transport presents to children around the world living in poverty.

Headteacher, Mr David Morris, added: "This is a wonderful start for Charity Crew. The pupils are very dedicated and we look forward to their next event."

New Hope helps Children in Need

A LLANTWIT MAJOR charity which works to help the people of Nicaragua, set aside a day last week to support Children in Need.

Gordon Taylor, of the New Hope charity shop in Llantwit town centre, explained: "We followed the BBC's 'Rickshaw Challenge' around the UK and decided to donate our day's takings on Children in Need Friday, and some of our staff came to work in their pyjamas for the day."

"Our takings for the day were £215, and we matched this, making a total of £430, which has been sent to BBC Wales."

U3A members learn about Dyffryn House

THE guest speaker at Sully U3A's November meeting was Gerry Donovan, the general manager of Dyffryn House and Gardens.

She gave the audience a brief outline of the estate's history and an update on the changes and restoration that have taken place.

In 1891, the estate was sold to John Cory, an extremely wealthy coal merchant, who built the present house in 1893. His third son, Reginald, studied law at Cambridge but his passion was horticulture and collecting plants and he became a significant member of the RHS.

He collaborated on the garden design with Thomas Mawson, an eminent landscape gardener. Unfortunately, when Reginald died he left instructions to his executors that all his papers were to be burned and so no records of the planting exist.

Next year will see the 80th anniversary of his death and there will be a series of events to celebrate his life.

Since coming into the ownership of

Glamorgan County Council in 1939, the estate has had a chequered history and has been used as a police academy, dog training centre and education conference facility.

The house and gardens are still owned by the Vale Council, but the National Trust took over their maintenance and running in January 2013 on a 50-year lease. A lot of conservation work has been done to the house and gardens by the council, and the Trust plans to build on that work.

Work has been carried out on the house to make it stable and watertight but much remains to be done. Some restoration work has also taken place in the gardens, and a new glasshouse has been erected which houses orchids and a significant cacti collection.

Many members had memories of attending courses, conferences and craft fayres at the house. Gerry was thanked for her talk by chairman Gill Mathias.

The next monthly meeting will be on Thursday, January 9 at 2pm in The Old School, Sully when new members are welcome.

RIGHT: Commodore David Elford chatting to two Normandy veterans.



MOD ST ATHAN FALLS SILENT FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

AT 11 O'CLOCK on November 11, MoD St Athan fell silent as the station observed the two minutes silence in remembrance of those who had lost their lives in the service of their countries during the Great Wars of 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 and current conflicts.

Service and civilian personnel at St Athan were joined in their act of remembrance by members of the Normandy Veterans' Association and the children and staff of Wick and Marcross Church in Wales Primary School.

The service, held at The Multi-Faith Centre, MoD St Athan, was led by Padres Rev Lance Clark and Rev Colin Richards and was well attended by personnel across the site.

Both young and old have experienced the feelings of having loved ones deployed in areas of conflict far from home. Many of the children come from military families and although it is 68 years since the end of World War II, the presence of the Normandy Veterans ensured that this was by no means confined to the history books.

The service was memorable for everyone and there was one emotional moment as one of the Normandy veterans stood to recite: "They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them".

Four poppy wreaths were laid at the altar by the Normandy Veterans, Commandant Defence College of Technical Training, Commodore David Elford, the Station Commander, Wing Commander Robert

Balls and the children of Wick and Marcross School. The RAF St Athan Voluntary Band provided the music throughout the service. The solo bugle that performed the Last Post and Reveille was played by Mrs Bourne.

Station Commander, Wing Commander Robert Balls, said: "The act of remembrance is as important today as it was for the first two minutes silence in 1919."

"MoD St Athan opened 75 years ago as Britain was on the brink of the Second World War, the veterans are a reminder of our past and the children, our hope for the future."

"While remembering the fallen of 20th Century conflicts our thoughts also turn to the Servicemen and women who are currently deployed from St Athan to areas of conflict throughout the world."

COMMUNITY NEWS
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL
Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Llangan Primary School WHAT an exciting week this has been for the children of Llangan School.

When I arrived on Thursday of last week to deliver THE GEM, there was an air of excitement with a number of tiny tots waiting patiently to be seated in their teachers' cars. They were visiting St Canna's Church in Llangan, and there to meet them was Mr Gareth Williams and his wife Ruth, who gave an interesting and informative talk on the history of St Canna's, which dates back to the 12th century.

The headteacher, Mr Steve Williams, was amazed by the lovely view of St Mary Hill and St Mary's Church from the rear of St Canna's. Mr Williams expressed a wish to attend the ceremony when the interment of the bones which were found near the foundations of the new vestry are buried.

A big thank you to Ruth and Gareth Williams for a very interesting morning from everyone at the school!

The excitement at the school continued on Friday 15, when the school celebrated with an autumn fair. On my visit, I was amazed to see so many interesting and unusual games. Once again, a big thank you to the PTA which does so much to raise funds for the school, and the teachers who, after a full day's work, were there playing games to help raise cash for the school.

A date for parents: on Friday, November 29, the PTA will be holding a table top sale, again in the school, at 3.30pm.

Local History of Wales

MR David Frances, the well-known local historian, gave an interesting talk on the village of Treoes and other areas of the Vale.

The meeting, held in Saron Chapel on Wednesday, November 13 was very well attended by the community and visitors from outside the area.

The service which took place in Saron Chapel on Sunday, November 17, was attended by many local residents. The service was conducted by Rev Bill Jones!

Christmas Fair GO along to the Treoes village hall on Saturday November 23, 10am - 12.30pm and enjoy the Christmas fair. There will be a variety of stalls. If anyone wishes to obtain a stall, the cost is £5.

Christmas Fayre for the Labour party SANTA will be making a welcome return to the Labour Party's Christmas Fayre on Saturday, November 30 at St Helen's Church Hall in Wyndham St, Barry. Doors open at 11am.

Stalls include gifts, toys, books, tombola, with something for everyone young or older. Refreshments will be available. Entrance is free.

A G Adams & Son hosts memorial Christmas tree

THIS Christmas, a close to them who have died. If they wish, families may also leave a small donation to charity.

Alan Pacey at A G Adams & Son, explained: "This is the eighth year we have offered a memorial tree in honour of those who have died, as it has always proved to be a great help for relatives and friends."

"We know that Christmas and New Year, in particular, is a time when people look back and remember those they've lost, and we hope our memorial Christmas tree will again benefit the families concerned at this difficult time," he continued.

The A G Adams & Son funeral home is open from 8.30am until 5pm and people will be able to leave memorial cards on the tree right up until Christmas Eve.

Coffee morning for dementia support charity

A FESTIVE coffee morning and craft sale is being held on Saturday, November 30, between 11am and 1pm, at the Lesser Hall, Town Hall, Cowbridge.

All proceeds will be donated to SOLACE, a Cardiff and Vale charity that supports people with dementia and their families.

BRYN HAFREN PUTS ON AN ARRAY OF DEMONSTRATIONS FOR 'OPEN DAY'

**PHOTOGRAPHS by
IAN DIXON**

BRYN HAFREN School held its open evening on Thursday, October 24 when a large number of children and parents were shown around the various departments and buildings.

Pupils took part in a number of demonstrations ranging from drama to swimming, IT robotics to dance, and much more.

Pupils even kept up a supply of refreshments for the visiting relatives, staff and their friends.



LEFT: The music department put on performances.



COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SPORTS ROUND-UP

Hockey team lose out in tournament...

But better news for rugby boys!

THE senior hockey squad played in their Preliminary County hockey tournament against St David's College and Llanishen.

Each game was 30 minutes long and after the round robin tournament all games finished 0-0. To decide a winner it was decided to play 6-a-side golden goal or five minutes.

Cowbridge played Llanishen first; Llanishen scored. St David's then played Llanishen; St David's scored. In the last match it was 0-0 after five minutes so St David's were named winners of the tournament due to winning one and drawing one.

It was a great afternoon of hockey. The Cowbridge team have improved immensely since having coaching from Tynne through the 3x60 scheme every week.

Team: Gk- Hannah Lee; Defenders - Megan Duncombe, Genevieve Kirk, Elle Eddy-Williams, Laurie Thomas, Sian Smith; Midfielders - Izzy Eddy-Williams, Megan McNamee, Evie Williams; Attack - Hannah Lister Sims, Jemma Viney, Rosa Hartman, Eliza Smith.

A great team effort by a team made up of year 10-12 pupils. After qualifying for the county hockey tournament final, the year 10s played Cathedral, Llanishen and Glantaf in the final.

Cowbridge played Cathedral first which finished 0-0; they then played Glantaf. With a team of regular county hockey players and Welsh Internationals it was always going to be a tough game; Glantaf won 5-0, although they scored all these goals in the first half!

Cowbridge then earned a 0-0 draw

against Llanishen; Glantaf won the tournament.

Our county player Jemma Viney played with grit and determination.

Team: Hetty Breed; Rhiannon Hill; Molly Price; Megan Duncombe; Sophie Harpin; Genevieve Kirk; Sian Smith; Ella Jones; Izzy Gambling; Cerys Bradshaw; Jemma Viney & Katie Johnson.

NETBALL
A year 8 'B' team played in the Cardiff & Vale B Tournament at Talybont.

The girls came second in their pool, beating Radyr, Mary Immaculate and St. Teilos, and drawing with Cardiff High. They went on to play Bro Morgannwg and Eastern High and were eventually placed sixth overall out of 21 teams.

Well done to all the girls who took part especially to Olivia Mitchell who was our player of the tournament.

RUGBY & FOOTBALL

On November 14, two 8 rugby teams and one year 7 football team played Glantaf in a round of friendly matches.

With interest and participation levels so high, it was great to see so many pupils get a chance to play the sports they love, and do so representing the school.

The year 8 rugby 'A' team won 26-19, in a great contest. The year 8 'B' lost a narrow game 28-26, although with a number of absentees being present, this writer is sure the game would have finished in their favour.

The final game of the day, between the year 7 football teams from both respective schools, resulted in a 3-2 loss for Cowbridge, but with the full squad getting a full run out, it would have served as an excellent learning curve ready for the upcoming cup fixtures.

Well done! It was great to see 50+ pupils out there giving everything they had, all for the Cowbridge Comprehensive School badge.

Make sure you all keep on attending training, and keep up the good work!

FOOTBALL

On November 11, the Cowbridge year 7 football team played Barry Comprehensive



ABOVE: Year 7 & 8 rugby & football and RIGHT: Cieran Hughes

School in the quarter final of the Welsh Cup.

Having only just scraped through their last game against MIHS, Cowbridge were intent on putting in a good performance.

The game started, and from the early exchanges it was clearly evident that Barry knew how to play football, with their squad consisting of a number of Cardiff and Swansea academy players.

This though did not phase Cowbridge. They were playing some outstanding football, with Ed Thomas using his blistering pace up the wing, and Matt Oddy chipping away, with his never-say-die attitude.

Unfortunately for Cowbridge, the goal keeper which stood in the way of them and a goal was having a stormer. All efforts were saved, punched or kicked away!

After 20 minutes of relentless attacking, Cowbridge pulled ahead with a typical striker goal. Charlie Carr poked the ball into the net from a Matt Oddy cross.

With Cowbridge going ahead and Barry still pushing, and playing their own brand of exciting football, from a neutral point of view, this game was only going to be separated by one or two goals at the most.

A few minutes before half-time Cowbridge burst into 10th gear, with every member of the team being controlled and calm on the ball, doing everything which could have been asked of them.

Charles Phillips was solid in goal, Matthew Dewhurst, Dan Stancombe, Jack Johnson and Jamie Evans were like a brick wall at the back, Jake Thomas and Will O'Connor were running the show from the middle of the pitch, Ed Thomas and Will Marsden were whipping the ball in beautifully from the wings, and Matt Oddy and Charlie Carr were creating and scoring goals for fun.

Just before half-time, Cowbridge slotted a

further two goals into the back of the net, both scored by Charlie Carr, and the boys did not look back after that.

The second half started in the same fashion, with Cowbridge playing the best football this writer has ever seen from a year 7 side. A further three goals were scored by Charlie, making his tally six for the game. He needs to stop scoring, because the school cannot afford any more match balls, due to the fact he has taken so many home!

Barry then returned with a goal of their own, to which Cowbridge responded instantly with a goal from Jake Thomas' power strike. The game finished and Cowbridge had won 7 - 1!

Well done Cowbridge, you were outstanding! Players of the match: Charlie Carr and Will O'Connor.

RUGBY
Cowbridge Rugby Academy registered a comfortable 32-0 win over Gower College.

The victory made it two from two for Cowbridge in the second stage of the competition after a 58-10 win over Pembroke Schools last week.

Jack Davies, Harri Thomas, Tyler Williams, Nick Griffiths and Jordan Viggers all scored as Cowbridge produced some entertaining

rugby on the artificial surface at the WRU National Centre of Excellence.

"We've been working hard in training and it all came to fruition," said Matt Silva. "We kept the ball well and didn't give Gower many opportunities, that was the key thing."

"Gower defended well in the first half but we scored some good tries after half time and that was pleasing. We've won two from two so far but we're just taking it one game at a time."

Fly half Williams produced an impressive performance, converting Davies' try and kicking a penalty for a halftime lead. In the second half, he made two more clean breaks as Cowbridge pulled away.

"The boys are getting used to being involved in a professional environment," said Silva. "We're training regularly, doing video analysis and they're enjoying that mentality."

"It's a learning curve for all of them and it's about applying themselves regularly. But we're a young side and will be together again next year so overall, it's not going too badly," he added.

SURFING
Congratulations to Cieran Hughes on getting selected for the British under-16s surfing squad; Cieran will go to the World Championships in 2014.



'Building up Welsh economy'

RECENTLY, we had the welcome announcement that the UK Government has finally agreed to devolve some taxation and borrowing powers to Wales.

If we are to create a mature, functioning parliament responsible for the money it spends, while properly serving the needs of the people of Wales, then these powers are essential.

The Welsh Government is almost unique in that it has substantial legislative powers, a £15 billion budget yet no responsibility for raising money it spends.

Having powers to raise some income will incentivise the Welsh Government to improve the Welsh economy.

At present, there is no incentive to get more people into work. If they were paying income tax to a Welsh treasury, job creation would be linked to the government's income meaning that in the future the Welsh Government will be rewarded for success.

Taking hold of these powers would give the Welsh Government flexibility.

It would be able to tailor the taxation system to meet the needs of the people of Wales, to

reduce or raise taxes as appropriate, or to leave them the same as the rest of the UK.

Other aspects of the announcement are to be welcomed: the UK Government has also agreed to give Wales control of Stamp Duty Land Tax, which could be used to help first time buyers.

Borrowing powers are critical if capital investment is to be secured to improve infrastructure and create jobs, in all parts of Wales.

It is an anomaly that local authorities and community councils have the power to borrow, yet the Welsh Government is unable to.

These powers will promote accountability and responsibility. They provide us with an opportunity to build up the Welsh economy that, in my view, is too good to miss.

Wales has much to gain from these important powers, and that's why Plaid Cymru will be working as hard as we can to ensure that the people of Wales benefit from them as soon as possible.

Leanne Wood, Leader of Plaid Cymru - The Party of Wales

AM meets businesses let down by bank mis-selling



Jane Hutt AM and Andy Green at the Assembly.

VALE AM Jane Hutt joined a meeting in the Assembly recently chaired by Elin Jones AM, to meet the victims of mis-selling of interest rate swaps by the major banks, which has resulted in bankruptcy and widespread job losses in Wales.

She met Vale constituents who have been affected, including Barry Island's Andy Green, who is a director of the 'Bully-Banks' campaign. Jane pledged to take this matter up with the

authority.

Jane Hutt was told that despite banks being found guilty of mis-selling in nine out of 10 cases, only a handful of firms have received any payment back of their own money under the review scheme established by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

The Assembly, although having no formal jurisdiction over the FCA, is now considering how it can support the efforts of local businesses to establish a fairer and more efficient review process to settle cases of mis-selling.

AM's praise for British Legion



Above: Andrew RT Davies with RAF veteran Andy Davies.

REGIONAL AM Andrew RT Davies last week met Peter Evans of the Royal British Legion and RAF veteran Andy Davies at the National Assembly ahead of Remembrance Sunday.

They discussed the importance of the Armed Forces Community Covenant, which has now been signed up to by 18 of 22 local authorities in Wales, and Mr Davies heard Andy's story and the fantastic role played by the Royal British Legion in helping him to turn his life around.

Andrew RT Davies said: "Councils in south Wales signed up to the covenant early on and I was pleased to hear that the Vale has been one of the better authorities since its introduction there.

"Andy's story is a great example of someone benefiting from the great efforts made by the Legion to support veterans. In his case, their support helped him to find the strength to turn his life around and there are thousands of

similar cases throughout the UK."

Mr Davies stressed that it was important to remember that charities supporting military veterans operated all year round and not just in November.

"It is easy near Remembrance Sunday to spare a thought for the brave members of the Armed Forces who gave and indeed give their lives in defence of the country.

"However, many veterans rely on the generosity of Armed Forces charities when they are down on their luck and this can happen at any time of year.

"The Community Covenant has a big role to play in delivering local support for veterans and I am hopeful that local authorities will now take steps to improve the data they hold identifying the number of local veterans.

"In order to plan support effectively it is important to know how many veterans live in the local area and whilst it is great that doctors surgeries are now encouraging patients to identify them-

selves as veterans there is plenty more to do to improve services and support."

Andy, an RAF veteran who was once based at St Athan, found it hard to adapt to civilian life after leaving the RAF.

He fell into a spiral of alcoholism and petty crime, eventually serving time in prison. He is full of praise for the support that he was offered by the Royal British Legion to help him turn his life around and he now studies at the University of South Wales in Pontypridd.

He said: "The Royal British Legion has been tremendous to me, assisting me with grants and into full-time education. I believe that a co-ordinated approach is vital between the Legion, other service charities and policymakers. I hope the Armed Forces Community Covenants being signed across Wales will help here - bringing local authorities, charities, the NHS, the Armed Forces and other agencies together."

New book immortalises great day for Welsh rugby

STEVE LEWIS, who used to run a Cardiff sports bookshop, has written a number of rugby books and these include Boots and Spikes - The Ken Jones Story and Last of the Blue Lions - The 1938 British Lions Tour of South Africa.

His latest is *All Black and Amber - When Newport beat New Zealand* and it is published by yLofa at £9.95. It was on October 30, 1963 that Newport RFC recorded an historic victory over the fifth New Zealand All Blacks.

It was the only defeat suffered on their 36-match tour.

The author is to be congratulated on how he relates this famous game to what was happening elsewhere at the time. For instance: "AP Herbert's poem *Don't go to the dogs tonight* would have little meaning in Newport after Tuesday, October 29, because the option to visit the town's greyhound track would no longer be there."

As the author says in his introduction: "This book is about that day, the events that led up to

it and those that followed. It is a book about a rugby match, 80 minutes of sport that saw 30 men stand up and be counted.

"It is perhaps inconceivable that a book about a game of rugby should invite the likes of John Lennon, Ronnie Biggs, Ena Sharples, Clint Eastwood and Rolf Harris onto its pages."

Well researched and well written, it is a must for all rugby enthusiasts.

BRIAN LEE

Victorian Christmas market

SCOPE Victorian Christmas market is held on Friday, November 29 from 10am - 12pm, at Hayes Road, Sully. Telephone 01446 733418.

A spokeswoman said: "Just a reminder that our Victorian Christmas market is nearly upon us. It includes our famous coffee shop, festive cakes, sweets, pickles, a raffle and lots more!"

The event is at Scope Adult Centre on Hayes Road.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING AND LOADING AND PARKING PLACES) (CIVIL ENFORCEMENT) (AMENDMENT) (NO 4) ORDER 2013

1. On the 18th November 2013 The Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 53 and 124 and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and all other enabling powers made an Order the general effect of which is as described below:

2. The Order will come into operation on 25th November 2013 or on the dates that the signs and road markings are in place and be known as the "Vale of Glamorgan Council (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places) (Civil Enforcement) (Amendment) (No 4) Order 2013"

3. A copy of the Order and plans showing the affected areas may be seen at the address shown below during normal office hours.

4. If you wish to question the validity of the Order or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act or on the grounds that any requirement of the same or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 25th November 2013 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

The following Traffic Regulation Order is to be amended as follows:

Vale of Glamorgan Council (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places) (Civil Enforcement) Order 2013

SCHEDULE 1

Delete Map AW51 - Limited Waiting Monday to Saturday 8am-6pm. No return within 2 hours

Broad Street Barry

On the northern Side from a point 72 metres south west of Its junction with Buttrills Road for a distance of 27 metres south west

SCHEDULE 2

Insert New Map AW51/4-13 - Prohibition of Waiting At Any Time

Broad Street Barry

On the northern Side from a point 72 metres south west of Its junction with Buttrills Road for a distance of 27 metres south west

Insert New Maps Y60, Z60, AA60 & AB60 - Prohibition of Waiting At Any Time

B4267 Leckwith Road, Leckwith

On its west side from the Vale of Glamorgan boundary at the River Ely road bridge and contiguous with the restriction implemented by Cardiff City Council for a distance of 688 metres south.

On its east side from that same point for a distance of 215 metres south and from a point 461 metres from that same point for a distance of 294 metres south.

Insert New Map AB60 - Prohibition of Waiting At Any Time

Woodland Lane Leckwith

On both sides from its junction with B4267 Leckwith Road for a distance of 13 metres west

Insert New Map AB60 - Prohibition of Waiting At Any Time

Lon Cwrt Ynston Leckwith

On both sides from its junction with B4267 Leckwith Road for a distance of 10 metres south

Insert New Map AU24/4-13 Prohibition of Waiting Mon-Fri 8am to 9am and 3pm to 4pm

Ham Lane East Llantwit Major

On both sides from a point approximately 14 metres south of its junction with Boverton Road southwards for a distance of approximately 75.5 metres

Dated this 21st day of November 2013.

M. E. Punter
Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps,
Wenvoe CF5 6AA



CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG 2013 GORCHYMYN (GORFODI SIFIL) (DIWYGIO) (RHIF 4) (GWAHARDD AROS, LLWYTHO A PHARCIO A CHYFYNGU AR AROS LLWYTHO A PHARCIO)

1. Ar 18 Tachwedd 2013, yr oedd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adranau 1, 2, 3, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 53, a 124 a Rhan IV o Atodlen 9 Deddf Rheoli Traffig Ffyrdd 1984, a Rhan 6 Deddf Rheoli Traffig 2004 a phob p_e_r galluogi arall, wedi gwneud Gorchymyn i'r diben cyffredinol a ddisgrifir isod:

2. Daw'r Gorchymyn i rym ar 25 Tachwedd 2013 neu ar y dyddiadau y bydd yr holl arwyddion a marciau ffordd yn eu lle. Fe'i hadwaenir fel 'Gorchymyn (Gorfodi Sifil) (Diwygiedig) (Rhif 4) (Gwahardd Aros, Llwytho a Pharcio a Chyfyngu ar Aros, Llwytho a Pharcio, Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2013'.

3. Cewch weld copi o'r Gorchymyn a chynlluniau sy'n dangos y manau dan sylw, yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa.

4. Os hoffech ddadlau'n erbyn dilyswydd y Gorchymyn neu'i ddarpariathau am na chredwch fod gan y ddeddf uchod b_e_r i'w gweithredu, neu am y tybiwch eu bod yn methu â chydymffurfio â golygonion y ddeddf uchod neu un o'i hoferynnau, bydd gennych chwe wythnos o 25 Tachwedd 2013 i wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys i'r diben hwnnw.

Bydd y gorchymyn Rheoli Traffig canlynol yn cael ei ddiwygio fel a ganlyn:

Gorchymyn (Gorfodi Sifil) Gwahardd Aros, Llwyddo a Pharcio a Chyfyngu ar Aros, Llwytho a Pharcio 2013.

ATODLEN 1

Dil_er y canlynol o Fap AW51 - Cyfyngu ar Aros rhwng Dydd Llun a Dydd Sadwrn 8am-6pm. Dim hawl dychwelyd cyn pen 2 awr.

Broad Street, Y Barri

Ar ei hochr ogleddol o fan sy'n 72 medr i'r de orllewin o'r gyffordd â Buttrills Road am 27 medr i gyfeiriad y de orllewin.

ATODLEN 2

Cynhywyser Map Newydd AW51/4-13 - Gwahardd Aros ar Unrhyw Adeg

Broad Street, Y Barri

Ar ei hochr ogleddol o fan sy'n 72 medr i'r de orllewin o'r gyffordd â Buttrills Road am 27 medr i gyfeiriad y de orllewin.

Cynhywyser Map Newydd - Gwahardd Aros ar Unrhyw Adeg

B4267 Leckwith Road, Lecwydd

Ar ei hochr orllewinol o ffin Bro Morgannwg wrth y bont ffordd dros afon Elai ac yn unol â'r cyfyngiadau a weithredwyd gan Gyngor Dinas Caerdydd am 688 medr i gyfeiriad y de.

Ar ei hochr ddwyreiniol o'r un lle'n union am 215 medr i gyfeiriad y de ac o fan sy'n 461 medr o'r lle hwnnw am 294 medr i gyfeiriad y de.

Cynhywyser Map Newydd - Gwahardd Aros ar Unrhyw Adeg

Woodland Lane, Lecwydd

Ar y ddwy ochr o'r gyffordd â Leckwith Road (B4267) am 13 medr i gyfeiriad y gorllewin.

Cynhywyser Map Newydd - Gwahardd Aros ar Unrhyw Adeg

Lôn Cwrt Ynston, Lecwydd

Ar y ddwy ochr o'r gyffordd â Leckwith Road (B4267) am 10 medr i gyfeiriad y de.

Cynhywyser Map Newydd AU24/4-13 Gwahardd Aros rhwng dydd Llun a dydd Gwener 8am - 9am a 3pm - 4pm

Ham Lane East, Llanilltud Fawr

Ar y ddwy ochr o fan sydd odedu 14 medr i'r de o'r gyffordd â Boverton Road am ryw 75.5 medr i gyfeiriad y de.

Dyddiedig 21 Tachwedd 2013

M. E. Punter,
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai,
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Canolfan yr Alpau, Gwenvoe. CF5 6AA.



Who wants to build what, and where?

Mr David Jackson - 1 Glamorfa Cottages, Bonvilston -

Demolition of existing pre-fabricated concrete garage and excavation to reduce ground levels to that of adjacent house. Construction of new garage and driveway at new levels and enlargement of existing access gate to suit new driveway.

Mr Adrian Rowe - 17 York Place, Barry -

Proposed conversion of rear office into one residential unit.

BT Plc - Side of 1 Church Cottage, Rhosneig, Rhosneig -

Openreach broadband cabinet.

Mr Hooper - 10 The Cross Keys, Llantwit Major -

Replacement windows to the front and rear elevations.

Amelia Trust Farm - Five Mile Lane, Barry -

Retention of demountable toilet unit and steel store.

Mr Richard Hunt - 45 Hinchsliff Avenue, Barry -

Proposed single storey extension to rear and porch to front.

Single storey outbuilding to side to be incorporated in extension.

Mr Stone - Roxburgh

Openreach - Chestnut; re-pollard.

REG Windpower - Mynydd Portref

Extension, Argoed Edwin Farm, Llanharan, Pontyclun

Erection of six wind turbines up to 110m blade tip height, access racks, cables, electrical substation and associated ancillary equipment. (Supplementary

Information (SEI) giving further detail and consideration of the impacts of access track construction received April 22. (Further

Supplementary Information (SEI) reducing the number of turbines from seven to six (turbine T1 deleted) received October 10).

Shawn Whyman - Outside on pavement, Cowbridge Old Book Shop, 72 Eastgate, Cowbridge -

Openreach broadband cabinet.

Openreach - Outside Dinas Powys telephone exchange, Penyturmpike Road, Dinas Powys -

Install a new pc cabinet.

Kenfig Hill man makes 'amazing' recovery... and returns to his choir!

IN August 2013, Michael 'Clive' Down, of Kenfig Hill, Bridgend, suffered multiple injuries in a horrific accident while repairing a broken machine in the Steel Company in Port Talbot where he worked a fitter and turner.

Fifteen months later the 64-year-old, who is a tenor with Kenfig Hill and District Male Voice Choir, returned to sing with them in a concert last Thursday night in Cornelly Community Centre, near Bridgend.

Clive, who was in a coma for eight weeks, suffered multiple severe injuries including triple skull fracture and a broken arm and leg. His stomach was ripped out so they had to take the skin off his legs to make a new stomach, his heart was exposed and his lung was collapsed. Add to this the fact he lost so much blood in the helicopter on the way to hospital he suffered a stroke, a journey where he died twice.

For the last year, Clive has had many operations, much physiotherapy and is now walking with the aid of a walking frame. Although his recovery has been hard and sometimes depress-

ing he has come through it with his 'head up'. His wife Carol said doctors are astounded by his recovery.

Best friends

WHEN Clive announced he wanted to sing in last Thursday's concert, the members of the choir were delighted to have him back, said choir chair Harold Phillips.

Mr Phillips said when Mr Down was in a coma a CD of the choir singing was played to him to "help bring him round" and during his stay in hospital, members of the choir visited Clive every Tuesday and Friday according to a rota organised by fellow top tenor John Down.

"He is quite a wit and keeps people smiling and we were delighted when he was able to come back and practice with us."

Mr Phillips continued by saying: "There wasn't much of him that wasn't damaged. He shouldn't be alive but he is, and we feared he would never sing with us again but he has."

"He is a true inspiration to people who have suffered any sort of major injury."

The final word came from Clive, who described members of the choir as his "best friends".



Clive Down and wife Carol with the choir's musical director Philip Juliff.

'We will never forget the pride of taking part in Festival of Remembrance'

CIVILIAN security officers, Mrs Jean White from Barry and Mr Kenneth Kirkham from Pencoed were the first members of the Ministry of Defence Guard Service (MGS) to take part in the annual Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall.

It was an evening to remember when the two representatives from MoD St Athan proudly stepped out to walk down the steps of the Royal Albert Hall and stand alongside the representatives of all the Services as they remembered and honoured all those who have lost their lives in conflicts.

Mrs White said: "It is difficult to express in words just what it feels like to take part in such an iconic national event, the feeling of pride was almost overwhelming."

During the rehearsals they met and shared many stories with veterans, Service person-



Mr Ken Kirkham and Mrs Jean White at the Royal Albert Hall.

nel and performers, including Alfie Boe.

Mrs White added: "I couldn't get over how welcoming everyone was and many of the performers, such as Alfie Boe, had an open door policy. People were popping in and out and they spent so much time meeting and speaking to everyone. The whole event was really inclusive".

PROUD

Mr Kirkham said: "As an ex-Serviceman it was a very emotional experience, especially when the poppy petals

were falling. Knowing they represented a person who had paid the ultimate price for the defence of our kingdom made you all too aware of the losses we, as a nation, have suffered".

MoD St Athan Commanding Officer, Wing Commander Rob Balls said: "As a civilian and an ex-Serviceman Mrs White and Mr Kirkham represent the MGS personnel who are an integral part of MoD St Athan."

"It was a proud moment for us all as they became the first MGS personnel to take part in the Festival of Remembrance. I am sure it is an experience which they will remember and cherish for many years to come." Service and civilian personnel from MoD St Athan joined local communities for Remembrance Services across south Wales where they paid homage to the fallen.

Busy year for pensioners...

LLANTWIT MAJOR pensioners have had various trips this year which included visiting the Botanic Gardens, Gloucester quays and travelling on the A48 via Tintern for afternoon tea.

The weather was glorious. We had a lovely day on the Gloucester and Warwickshire steam railway, which was a lovely setting through a beautiful backdrop of the Cotswolds scenery and the weather was brilliant.

Our last trip was to Abergavenny, where about 12 of us had a tour of Abergavenny Priory, a church and the tythe barn, which has been recently renovated and houses a 24 foot-wide tapestry depicting Abergavenny through the years.

It was worked on by 36 ladies and is a credit to them all.

We have had a variety of entertainers and speakers this year which included Half Tidy, Barry male and female choirs, our own Marianne and her songsters and Llantwit Major ladies choir.

Jean Harvey gave us an entertaining talk on the Berlin Wall. In July this year, we were presented with a cheque from the power station towards our projector system.

We were also entertained by a group called Colhughukellee. They

were so versatile with their instruments and sang a Celtic and popular songs.

We are looking to the Advent season when we will be going out for Christmas meal.

We are looking forward to Barry Ladies Choir to round off this year.

We meet at the Llantonian Hall every Tuesday at 7pm. We can arrange transport within the Boverton and Llantwit Major area for a small fee. Please come for a taster. The fee is £6 membership per year, and we have a raffle every week.

For more information call 01446 794257 and speak to me, or call 01656 790680 to speak to our chairman, Mr Wilf Cole.

PG

Children's shoes wanted

BETWEEN November 16 and November 30, we are collecting used children's shoes for school children in Lesotho.

Any unwanted shoes can be dropped in at Liquorice Laces, Penny Lane, Cowbridge or Noah's Place, United Reform Church, Westgate, Cowbridge.

Noah's Place is open from 10am to 12 midday every day except Friday.

The church is open on Sunday and shoes can be left in between the archway.

MD

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The Deputy Minister meets some of the children attending the Brackla centre.

Minister opens two new Flying Start projects

DEPUTY Minister for tackling poverty, Vaughan Gething, has opened Flying Start centres in Brackla and Maesteg.

Flying Start facilities offer eligible parents free quality childcare for two to three year-olds, and parenting support, an enhanced health visitor service and help for early language development.

The Brackla setting is

based at Brackla Primary School. Welsh Government funding of £73,925 has been spent on work to provide services for 16 children.

The Maesteg centre is based at Plasnewydd Primary School. Welsh Government funding of £143,331 has been spent to provide facilities for another 16 children.

The Deputy Minister said: "The expansion of our Flying Start programme is progressing well in Bridgend County

Borough, and 1,190 children will be supported through the programme this year.

"The Welsh Government has invested just over £2 million in capital projects to support the roll out of Flying Start across the county. This has enabled us to create high quality settings for Flying Start children and families within communities in Bridgend County Borough."

Time capsule to be buried on Rhiw Hill

TOMORROW, Friday, November 22, is a significant day in the timeline of Bridgend County Borough, as arrangements are being made for future residents to travel back in time.

Bridgend County Borough Council is burying a time capsule on Rhiw Hill to mark the current phase of the ongoing regeneration works being implemented to improve Bridgend town centre, and future historians will be counting down the days to discover what's packed inside the capsule when it's due to be dug back up in 2100.

As part of the project, members of the community have been invited to contribute items to place in the capsule that will give residents in 2100 a picture of what it is like to live in the county borough in 2013.

Among the items selected are a letter to local children and residents of the county borough in 2100 from First Minister Carwyn Jones, along with stories and pictures produced by local schoolchildren showing what life is like

now and what they imagine it will be like in 2100.

Coun Phil White, Cabinet Member for Communities, said: "I think that this time capsule is a fantastic idea and a great way of marking a positive place for these regeneration works in the county borough's history books."

"It will be really excit-

ing for residents to turn back the hands of time when they dig it up in 87 years' time. If we were to dig up a capsule from 87 years ago today, we might expect to find songs by jazz artists like Louis Armstrong, a news article about Riversdale Surgery opening, or one of the very first copies of Winnie the Pooh."

Christmas cheer comes to Porthcawl

PORTHCAWL Christmas event includes a selection of stalls, a variety of entertainment, and real reindeer!

Father Christmas will be coming and there are children's rides.

Come to The Bandstand, John Street, on Saturday, November 30.

There's entertainment from 2pm to 5pm.

The programme of events is:

12 noon - 5pm, a variety of gift and food stalls located in James Street (behind the bandstand) and John Street.

2pm - 3pm, Bavarian Band.

3.10pm - 3.40pm, Joe Wiltshire-Smith.

3.45pm - 3.55pm, procession of invited guests and a chance to meet the local pantomime cast of *Snow White*.

4pm - 4.30pm, carol singing with Bridgend and District Wind Band.

4.45pm - 5pm, arrival of Santa.

Bridge FM's much loved DJ, Dave Easterbrook, will be comping the event with a two-hour live link throughout the afternoon.

Art exhibition

COWBRIDGE Art Society is now holding its winter art exhibition at Old Hall, Cowbridge, and it will run until December 5.

The exhibition is of up to 100 original works of art, most of which will be for sale for reasonable prices.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, 7pm-9pm, and visitors and new members are most welcome.

For details of the society's activities see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

BRIDGEND SPORTS RUGBY ROUND-UP

BRIDGEND SPORTS under-7s entertained Pencoed in two very competitive games.

A good turn out of 12 in total meant we were able to field two different teams of six each half.

Game one was a high scoring affair with good running, tagging and support play. Neither team could make a clear breakaway, cancelling each other out with tries scored by Ben, Jack (2) and Dan matching Pencoed's five.

The second half was more of the same but the Sports managed to outscore their opponents 4-3, with tries scored by Alex, Dylan and Sam (2) resulting in a 8-8 draw.

The second game started brightly for the Sports to lead 5-1 at halftime with tries scored by Jack (2), Dan (2) and Sam. Pencoed hit back with two early tries in the second half but Owen supported well to pick up two tries to increase the Sports' lead.

Ben was unlucky not to score two, only to be narrowly in touch when grounding the ball. Pencoed scored two further tries but Sports ran out winners 7-5.

Congratulations to the entire squad who played for each other, tagged and supported well. Special mention to Alex and Dylan who scored their first tries (well done) and to Isabel who had some good runs down the touchlines.

UNDER-8s

We welcomed both Pencoed and Newport HSOB for a home round-robin.

With a massive turnout of 17 players (more than the other two teams put together!), it was great to see them all eager to improve on last week.

Our first game was against Newport. The visitors started the game sprightly, scoring almost immediately with their first move of the game, and the signs were ominous. But the Sports soon got into their stride and some great passages of play saw Callum dart through the defence for two well taken tries.

In the second half, the Newport tags were proving somewhat difficult for our team to pull off and some seriously slack defending saw the visitors run in three weak tries.

With the game running away from us, up stepped Tom Chick with some blistering runs which bamboozled the Newport defence for him to score two great solo efforts. Newport scored their last try of the game sandwiched in between Tom's two.

With the scores locked at 5-5 and almost the last play of the match, some good passing after the tag from the Sports saw Tyrone cross over for the win-

ning try, final score 6-5

The second game was a slightly more lacklustre affair, with Pencoed coming charging out of the blocks. They scored three first half tries, thanks mainly to some poor tagging from the home side. Callum managed to score his third try of the morning to make the score a somewhat respectable 3-1 at halftime.

Unfortunately the second half followed in the same manner, as strong running from Pencoed and some mesmerising running from their young lady saw the Sports fall further behind.

Cian squeezed over in the corner to give the Sports hope before Pencoed quickly replied. Tom Chick capped a fine all round performance with his third try of the morning, before Pencoed scored their sixth try and deservedly came out on top in the end. Final score 3-6

Tagging has been one of the stronger points in recent weeks but for some reason we seemed to go backwards and we need to try and get them organised, both in defence and attack.

They're all eager to get their hands on the ball, which is great but its becoming too crowded at the tag area for us to mount attacks of our own. On a positive though, the boys are listening well in training and are progressing well, with a little bit more structure not many sides will triumph against this ever increasing squad!

Well done boys - keep up the effort.

UNDER-9s

It was another superb performance by the Bridgend Sports under-9s, as they beat Newport High School Old Boys (NHSOB) 5-1 and Pencoed 5-1.

Shea ran over to open the scoring for the Sports, and from the Newport kick off, and after a few phases of play, Nathan ran over to score just before halftime to make it 2 - 0.

The Sports made a few changes second half, and it wasn't long before McKenzie opened his account with a great try. Newport scored but the Sports replied straight from the kick off with another try from Nathan.

Again Newport came back hard at the Sports but again the defence was solid. The Sports eventually got control of the ball which set up McKenzie to score his second try, with the game ending 5-1.

Next up were Pencoed, but the Sports' tempo was high, taking a 3-0 halftime lead with all three tries coming from Shea. In the second half Pencoed came back into the game, but the Sports were too strong and won the half 2 -1, with the tries coming from

Mckenzie and Logan.

Again, following on from last week, the under-9s were outstanding, with a few more boys stepping up to that next level. Tackling was bruising, with some big hits. Ball retention and ball handling were also very good.

Squad: Fynn, Oliver, Nathan, Logan, Tristan, Shea, Mckenzie, Max Harris, Max Hemsley, Dan Hughes, Jacob, Cameron, Morgan, Kurtis, Joe and Declan. MVP was awarded to Nathan Cox.

UNDER-10s

The under-10s welcomed Pencoed to the Bandstand and played two games.

In the first game, Sports started well, working their way towards Pencoed's line. Quick ball from a ruck allowed Luke to cross the line for the first try, which was converted by Josh.

Sports continued their strong start, playing a quick off load game, with Owain crashing over at short range to score the second try, again converted by Owain.

Pencoed fought back and put real pressure on the Sports inside their 22. They started to spread the ball wide but Owain read the pass, intercepted and ran the length of the field to score; this try was converted by Jared.

At the start of the second half, Sports continued to play a fast expansive game which resulted in Cullen scoring the first try of the half, which he converted himself.

Pencoed never gave up and spent time camped in the Sports 22 which was rewarded with a converted try.

The under-10s' superiority at the breakdown continued to be rewarded with Josh scoring the last try of the game, which was converted by Owain for a final score of Bridgend Sports 35, Pencoed 7.

In game 2, Sports opened the scoring with a set move, wrongfooting the defence, allowing Owain to cross the line for the first try, which was converted by Josh.

Pencoed quickly replied with a try of their own which was converted. Sports worked their way up the field and quickly spread the ball wide, with the ball going through four sets of hands to score a well-worked try by Rhys V, converted by Owain.

At the start of the second half, Pencoed scored a try but the Sports finished strongly with Tom scoring the next two tries, both of which were converted by Jared for a final score of Bridgend Sports 28, Pencoed 12

MVP goes to Will Price for his direct running, brave tackling and his work at the breakdown. Two

great games in which both sides contributed, well done boys.

Team: Owain Peters, Rhys McNally, Rhys Vaughan, Jared Phillip, Mac Francis, Cullen Loynton, Tom Gardner, Rory Lee, James Murray, William Littlewood, Joshua Wilkinson, Luke Yates, Jack Davies, Will Price, Dom Manesitava and Archie Faulkner Lerway.

UNDER-11s

A week is a long time in rugby and Sports proved that this was the case against Pencoed.

After last week's defeat it seemed to all that were watching the team had something to prove and they proved it in style.

Against the run of play Pencoed scored the first try.

Sports continued to possess most of the ball and started to play a more passing game and within a few minutes equalised as Xander scored (James converted).

The game continued with Sport having most of the possession and passing as a team, while Pencoed took advantage of minor defensive errors to ensure they stayed in the game.

Bridgend's second try (converted by Tomos) was again a team effort where John's strength made the difference. However Pencoed continued to stay in the game as two extra tries by Tomos (converted by Tate) and Ben (converted by Rhys) ensured that the first half ended with Sports leading 28-21.

The second half started with the team possessing more of the ball and being more decisive in the rucks.

An early try by Ben (converted by Tomos) ensured that Sports were again in the lead; however, Pencoed always showed that they were dangerous in possession.

The game was close, however an excellent interception by Daffydd ensured Luca was able to score Sports' final try. It was at this point that Sports must have felt that the game was won, although Pencoed managed to score another try.

Desperate defending by Sports ensured that the game finished with a deserved win for them.

The coaches' team talk was full of praise to everyone - it was a team effort and the boys showed commitment and even when they went down they did not give up.

Their tackling overall improved and their passing was excellent as they started to play the ball more.

Everyone deserved to be man of the match, however by unanimous decision, it went to John.

JD

Baby Phoenix fly high against Gwerynfed!



The Baby Phoenix team.

YOUTH IMPRESS

PENCOED youth were comfortable winners of this floodlight friendly against Tondy, with both clubs placing the emphasis on developing their younger squad members were possible.

The opening 15 minutes were fairly even before Pencoed hooker Rhys Bargery took his team deep into home territory with a 40 metre run, and Pencoed capitalized, showing good patience through the phases for Rhys Clarke to dart over; Jamie Pensom converted.

Pencoed increased their lead when Sam Burke snapped up a loose pass to link with his backs, who showed quick hands in midfield for Alex King to send Gareth Dyer away on the outside, the right wing showing good pace to outflank the covering defence and score at the corner flag.

Pencoed then got their third try, full back Ryan Russell fielding a high ball

before counter attacking, and recycled possession saw Russell cross wide out for Pencoed to lead 17-0 at the break.

Pencoed continued to get the better of things territorially and second row Ben Davies drove into the home 22 for Clarke to send Russell sprinting in down the blindside with a well timed pass; Pensom converted.

Pencoed full back Morgan Jones then initiated a 70 metre counter attack and only a foot in touch denied Pencoed.

Pencoed continued to attack and got further reward when prop forward Liam Parish passed back inside for the supporting Jones to race in. Tondy pressed for the closing minutes but resolute Pencoed defence kept their line intact.

On Saturday Pencoed youth return to Ospreys League action at home to leaders Aberavon Quins.

TR



ABOVE: Samantha Cox fights her way through the Gwerynfed defence. PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK

THE young Phoenix under-15s exceeded all expectations in their first match together against their Breconshire opponents, Gwerynfed, in this development match played over four 15 minute periods.

Phoenix went on the offensive from the outset, and their strong scrumage mirrored their Phoenix senior counterparts.

Phoenix scrum half Kayleigh Powell threatened with a couple of early breaks and put her side into the visitors' 22 before her half back partner Megan Whittaker intercepted a loose pass to touch down for the opening score.

Ceryn Williams and Amy Morgan then put in good tackles to stifle Gwerynfed attacks. Phoenix hooker Samantha Cox crashed over early in the second period, Whittaker adding the conversion, and the home side led 12-0.

The Gwerynfed response was immediate. Lucy Prendergast running strongly to open her side's account. Scrum half Powell then showed good awareness at a close up scrum to charge down the attempted clearance and score in the same motion.

Approaching halftime the home side increased their lead with Cox running strongly before offloading out of the tackle to send Seren Hart racing in from 22 metres, and Phoenix led 22-5 at half time.

Again Phoenix started the third period well, with Cox prominent with another barnstorming run before the ball broke for Powell, and the No9 set off on the outside

arc to score from around 40 metres.

Whittaker then did well with a cover tackle to thwart a visitors attack before Morgan broke from 60 metres out to score under the posts; Whittaker converted.

Morgan was soon to get her second try, a clever home line out play catching the visitors' unaware by peeling around the front of the lineout onto the short throw to score in the corner.

Phoenix were becoming increasingly dominant in the final period against a battling Gwerynfed side and good driving play from Ella Roberts saw her reappear in the move to force her way over; Whittaker converted.

Williams and Hannah Pounce then did well in defence to halt Gwerynfed attacks before a big hit from hooker Cox turned over possession for full back Williams to race over.

Centre Caitlin Jones then got the final Phoenix try, powering away and fending off several defenders to score from 30 metres.

To their credit the visitors then got the consolation score their efforts deserved, wing Rhiannon Hanks showing good pace to score from 40 metres.

Team: Hannah Pounce, Shania Brooker, Ceryn Williams, Samantha Cox, Ella Roberts, Amy Morgan, Jenna Dyckhoff, Bryony Taylor, Ceryn Williams, Megan Whittaker, Kayleigh Powell, Seren Hart, Caitlin Jones.

Pencoed Phoenix under-15s are looking to enlarge their squad and any interested prospective players over 12 and under 15 as of September 1, 2013, should contact coach Leanne Casley on 07921312897.

TR

It's bedtime at All Saints Primary as pupils help Children in Need!



STAFF and pupils at All Saints Church in Wales Primary School celebrated Children in Need Day in style recently.

Everyone took part in Pudsey Bear's Big Pyjama Party and they swapped their usual school uniform for an amazing range of nightwear and a fantastic array of onesies.

Lessons took on an atmosphere of fun and around £300 was raised for Children in Need.

Headteacher Richard Ware, decked out in his pyjamas and dressing gown, praised everyone for a tremendous effort and he said it was great to see pupils having fun while raising money for such a worthy cause.



Winter concert in Dinas Powys

THIS year's winter concert by Cerddorfa Dinas Powys Orchestra features music by Benjamin Britten, Giuseppe Verdi and Richard Wagner.

The concert is in the Parish Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys, on Sunday, December 8 at 7.30pm. The programme will include Haydn - Symphony No 101 'The Clock'; Verdi - Prelude

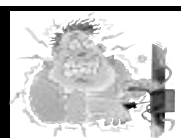
to 'La Traviata'; Wagner - 'Wesendonck' Lieder (soloist Sian Wright); and Britten - 'Soirees Musicales' on themes of Rossini. Sian Wright has sung professionally since 1994, singing roles for The Opera Factory and Batignano Opera Festival before joining the chorus of The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden where she also sang many minor roles. She currently sings for The Welsh National Opera.

Tickets: £6 (£3, 12 and under) include a mince pie and glass of wine or soft drink and will be available at the door on the night or from Dinas Powys Post Office, Murch Sub Post Office, 14 Camms Corner, Dinas Powys; Penarth Book Shop, Windsor Road, Penarth; and The Clerk, Dinas Powys Parish Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys. Phone 029 20706288 or visit www.cdpo.org.uk.



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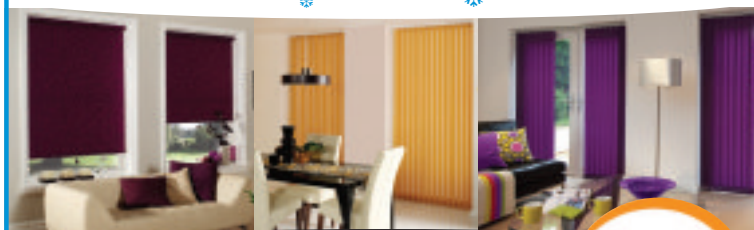
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COWBRIDGE JUNIOR RUGBY ROUND-UP

AFTER a four week break, Cowbridge under-13s kept their unbeaten season going with a great win over Croesyceiliog.

The teams had never met before and Croesyceiliog came with their own unbeaten record.

The game's first try came from a Croesyceiliog scrum just inside their own half; the Croesyceiliog flyhalf was tackled and turned over by the Cowbridge open-side flanker Ben Jones.

Ioan Williams fed his backs, who with some simple hands, put Rhys Bradshaw clear. Bradshaw looked like he was about to be tackled just short of the line, however, he managed to get away a superb inside pass for the Cowbridge full back, Iwan Price-Thomas, to score unopposed.

The second try came from a well worked Cowbridge line out 10 metres from the Croesyceiliog line. Iestyn Fenn took the line out to feed Dan O'Sullivan on a front ball peel. Only great defence from the Croesyceiliog forwards kept O'Sullivan out.

However, with the Croesyceiliog forwards all attracted to the breakdown, Cowbridge unleashed their backs. I. Williams fed Evan Thomas who in turn found Ruben Williams at inside centre.

R. Williams attracted

a number of Croesyceiliog defenders before offloading a simple but try scoring pass to Harry Ridge to score under the posts. I. Williams converted.

Croesyceiliog came back at Cowbridge and could have had a try of their own soon afterwards. The Cowbridge backs tried to complete a training ground move just inside their own half, only for the ball to be intercepted by the Croesyceiliog outside centre.

With the Cowbridge backs struggling to regain ground the Croesyceiliog centre could not keep hold of the slippery ball.

Croesyceiliog were now camped inside the Cowbridge half and it was only excellent team defence that kept Croesyceiliog out.

Just inside the Cowbridge 22, Jack Little stole the ball from a Croesyceiliog rolling maul. Little quickly off-loaded the ball to Thomas, who made a great pass off his left to put R. Williams clear.

Williams made some hard yards before putting Iwan Price-Thomas clear for his second try of the game, this time from just inside his own half; I. Williams converted.

Cowbridge began the second half as they ended the first, camped in the Croesyceiliog 22. Croesyceiliog were struggling to get out of their own half, and the game's fourth try came from a Croesyceiliog clearing kick.

The kick was gath-

ered by Price-Thomas, who made a side step before offloading to Sam Green on the Cowbridge left wing, who showed great pace to score in the corner. I. Williams made a great conversion.

Cowbridge were still full of running, and scored their next try from deep inside their own half.

R. Williams broke out of defence just inside his own 22. He was brought down on the halfway line, only for Dan O'Sullivan to take over making the hard yards. O'Sullivan took the ball to just inside the Croesyceiliog 22, and with all the forwards supporting I. Williams fed Bradshaw who offloaded inside to O'Sullivan who finished off a great team try; I. Williams converted.

Croesyceiliog did not let their heads drop and continued to play some positive rugby from all parts of the ground.

Cowbridge's final try of the game came from a Croesyceiliog attack.

Green made an impressive tackle on his larger opposite number, and Iestyn Fenn stole the ball at the breakdown. Thomas fed Ridge who scampered in for his second try of the game. I. Williams finished off an impressive goal kicking display with his fifth conversion of the game.

To Croesyceiliog's credit they once again attacked the Cowbridge line and were rewarded with a try of their own in the last few minutes of the game.

For boys under the

age of 13 it was a tremendous game of rugby, all credit to the boys and coaches of both teams. Final score Cowbridge 40, Croesyceiliog 7.

GJ

Cowbridge under-11s hosted Penallta on Sunday on the Cowbridge fields, seeking to replicate the Welsh team performance of the previous day.

Within seconds of the kick off, Cowbridge recovered possession and with several quick clean phases, spread the ball wide to enable gazelle-like James Davies to outpace his opponent for the first of his five tries.

Davies' second try followed quickly, after another series of excellent passes down the line through Rhys Williams and Harri Howkins which created an overlap around the visiting team's defence.

Another series of ground breaking phases were built from quickly recycled ball. Dynamic forward play from Lloyd Bennett, McKinley Parsons and David Harris released centre Charlie Locke to break the gain line, laying the ball back quickly to scrum half Jake Williams, who span the ball down the line of Cowbridge hands for Harry Whittaker to take a third try.

The second quarter of play saw Penallta make a comeback, relying on strong forward play and a coordinated defensive line to stifle Cowbridge attacks.

Inspirational attacks from Iwan-Thomas Bartle, Ioan Davies, Elisydd Greenwood, James Gilvear and Joe Marshman were all cut short by the blue and yellow shirted visitors.

By the end of the first half, the scores were even and all was up for grabs during the second half.

The second half saw Cowbridge stabilise their forward play and coordinate their backs to play some great rugby.

Ioan Davies demonstrated some excellent handling skills, twice releasing speedster James Davies with excellently timed passes to increase the Cowbridge scoreline with his third and fourth tries.

But the visitors weren't going to lie down easily and both tries were matched by the opposition.

Ultimately, James Davies clinched the game for Cowbridge with his fifth try after an exciting series of play involving the whole team in a truly exceptional effort.

Squad: James Davies,

Jake Williams, Jack Reilly, McKinley Parsons, Lloyd Bennett, Aled Leitch, Harri Howkins, Oliver Jarmain, Harry Whittaker, David Harris, Rhys Williams, Charlie Locke, Sam Coates, Thomas O'Connor, Elisydd Greenwood, Gruff Ford, Ioan Davies, Iwan-Thomas Bartle, Ellis Howell, James Gilvear, Matthew Gilvear and Joe Marshman.

WL

Cowbridge's coaches were delighted with a 10-7 win against Penallta as the under-9s reaped the rewards of commitment and selflessness.

The first period started at a flying pace, with tries by Jack (2) and Efan taking Cowbridge into an early lead. Cowbridge consistently showed good defensive line speed, with Jo D and Morgan E making life difficult for the Penallta runners.

The second period saw a strong fightback from Penallta as Cowbridge struggled to repeat the dominance of the first 10 minutes. Sebastian and Evan tried valiantly, and limited Penallta to three tries while Rhys O claimed another for Cowbridge.

It was all square going into the third period, but again Cowbridge were dominant. Good inter-passing created space out wide which led to two further tries. Tom consistently stepped in at scrum half to get the ball away from the tackle and, in defence, Aaron and Rhys S swarmed over the Penallta players, forcing mistakes and turnovers.

In the final period Cowbridge were strengthened by the arrival of Rhodri and Owen, who carried and tackled well. Morgan H led the drive for turnovers, forcing Penallta into touch on more than one occasion, and the defensive effort was summed up by Jake and Caleb who tackled everything that moved. Tal carried and tackled tirelessly, supported by Baz, Luke and Barnaby.

The defence held firm, and tries from Alex and Caleb made certain of a comprehensive win in what was undoubtedly the best performance of the season.

PR

Following their tournament success the previous week Cowbridge under-10s entertained Penallta on the Police fields on a damp grey November morning hoping to continue their good form of recent weeks.

Penallta were a much bigger side than Cowbridge so the order

of the day for the home side was to get the ball wide as quickly as they could.

However, the first quarter saw Cowbridge without the ball for long periods as Penallta dominated possession. While Cowbridge defended well, the home side were slow at the breakdown and too frequently were pushed off the ball, but the good defence only allowed the visitors to score only one try.

The second quarter was a more even affair with both sides having opportunity with ball in hand to create try scoring chances.

The first try was another top quality piece of individual brilliance from Ruben Davies, who used some fleet footed magic to escape the Penallta defence and squeeze in at the corner. Penallta responded by scoring two tries of their own before Davies crossed again for Cowbridge's second try.

The third quarter, like the first, was another tight quarter with Cowbridge competing better for possession.

Again aggressive defence led by Robbie Brown, Akka Guwy and Luke Treadwell restricted try scoring opportunities and like the first quarter Penallta only crossed the Cowbridge try line once to leave the match score 4-2 in favour of the away side.

Cowbridge, for the second period in the match, failed to score a try despite having opportunities to do so and if they were to claw their way back into the match would need to be more clinical in the last period.

Like a fine wine Cowbridge got better with time and saved their best for last as they started to assert themselves on the game. The Penallta defence parted like the Red Sea and Rhys Ford took the opportunity to serge through the hole and score a long range try from his own half.

This was followed up by Will Ryan who, with terrier-like tenacity, harassed the opposition and charged down an attempted clearance kick, re-gathered and crossed to level the match.

With the match now in the balance the next score was likely to be decisive and it was the home side who edged in front as Akka Guwy stretched his legs on an arching run to touch down in the corner for a well taken try.

With a few minutes left neither side were able add to the scoreboard and Cowbridge had won the last quarter 3-0 to edge the match 5-4.

This was not one of the team's best performances but a good defensive effort coupled with some self belief and good team spirit saw the side win a match they could easily have lost and that was to their credit.

Squad: Ruben Davies, Tom Brennan, Alfie Rees, Sebastian Johns-Powell, Akka Guwy, Will Harris, Iolo Davies, Sam Payne, Ethan Francis, Rhys Ford, Lewys Robins, Rhidian Williams, Tom Collingridge, Finlay Sullivan, Finlay Ball, Robbie Brown, Rhys Pritchard, Archie Lloyd, Luke Treadwell, Finlay Brace, Ifor Rees and Will Ryan.

MF

Cowbridge under-8s welcomed Penallta, who were looking to record their first win of season, yet provided stern opposition to a strong Cowbridge squad in what turned out to be three entertaining games.

In the first game Penallta took an early lead but Cowbridge then awoke at the restart, with Henry Whitehouse powerfully running through to score.

With confidence growing, James Lord made a typically tenacious run, setting up Josh Canning to sprint to the corner to score. Penallta drew level, but on form Henry Whitehouse notched up a hat-trick with two further scores to stretch the lead.

The game was then put beyond doubt with James Lord scoring a quick opportunist try. Final score 5-2 to Cowbridge.

PS

Local trainer receives award



BRIAN LEE writes: The Vale's Robbie Llewellyn, pictured right, who is assistant trainer to David Pyle, receives the 'Leading Trainer Award', on behalf of Mr Brace OBE, from Nick Sutton during the National Point-To-Point Awards dinner held at Cheltenham Racecourse last Friday (November 16).

PICTURE BY JOHN BEASLEY

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Brynhill results

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points (back nine = 26 points) £15 on pro vouchers, 3rd Scott Nelson & Steve Hopkins 48 points (back nine = 25pts) £5 on pro-shop vouchers.
Number of competitors: pairs 28.

CHAMPIONS GALORE AT BRYNHILL



PRESENTATION night marked the end of a very successful season for lady golfers at Brynhill.

It was a glittering occasion and the special crystal and silver trophies were mirrored by the equally resplendently dressed ladies. The attendance was very heartening, with non-winners supporting the winners and enjoying the atmosphere.

The trophies were filled with various cocktails and a disco added to the enjoyment of the evening.

Ladies Championship winner – Mrs Shirley Lewis, runner-up Mrs Linda Hewlett.

Diack winner – Mrs Julie Harkin, runner-up Mrs Claire Herbert.

Crystal Cup winner – Mrs Barbara Watkins, runner-up Mrs Chris Jones.

Lady Golfer of the Year, the prize for the most consistent golfer, was won by Shirley Lewis.

Congratulations to all winners and runners-up and to all those ladies who supported the competitions all year.

JK



THE men's competition presentation night took place on Saturday, November 9.

The captain, Mr Mike Moore, welcomed a large crowd of people, consisting of winners, runners-up, club members and guests to the clubhouse.

The tables sparkled with the silverware and replicas on display, and after many months of competitions, the finalists and runners-up were presented with the trophies by the club captain.

The vice captain, John Giles, conducted the proceedings for the evening.

The Don 'The Fox' Cup and the DL (Wick) Williams Cup were presented to the club in memory of two past members.

They were duly presented to the winners by Mr Chris Phillips and Mrs Sheila Williams respectively. The winners then followed in time-honoured tradition and filled their cups with the various cocktails which were available.

After the trophies had been presented, the club president, Peter Hayman, thanked the captain and the course manager and his staff, for their excellent work during the year.

He also thanked the

members for their loyal support.

The vice captain held an impromptu auction in aid of the Welsh Deaf Golf Society and a princely sum of £200 was raised for a Welsh rugby shirt signed by every member of the Welsh rugby squad.

The members enjoyed the rest of the evening with a disco provided by Mike Briscoombe.

The results of the major trophies are:

Winner of the Victor Ludorum – Jonathan Burrows.

Winner of the Club Championship – Scott Bowman and runner-up, Jonathan Burrows.

Winner of the Howell Hughes – Lee Galsworthy and runner-up, Glenn Taylor.

Winner of the Chief Buck Rabbit – Tony Davies and runner-up, Clive Blake.

Winner of the D L (Wick) Williams Cup – Phil Browne and runner-up, Steve Collins.

Winner of the Ernest Williams Cup – Michael Moore jr and runner-up, Glenn Taylor.

Winner of the George Williams Cup – Clive Blake and runner-up, Simon Bowsher.

JK



Scott Bowman, winner of the club championship.



Michael Moore jr, winner of the Ernest Williams Cup.



Tony Davies, winner of the Chief Buck Rabbit.



Phil Browne is presented with the D L (Wick) Williams Cup by Mrs Sheila Williams.



ABOVE: Clive Blake is presented with the George Williams Cup.



Winner of the Victor Ludorum, Jonathan Burrows.



Lee Galsworthy, winner of the Howell Hughes Cup.

Gymnasts shine at event

L LANTWIT MAJOR school have built up an excellent reputation in gymnastics over the past few years, and this year has been no exception.

On November 15 we set out to compete at Whitchurch School in the county championships. The competition is designed to give school pupils a taste for competitive gymnastics.

For many pupils it was their first time in such an event. We entered four teams - junior boys, junior girls (under-12) and senior boys, senior girls (under-14).

The competition was an extremely high standard with schools from across Cardiff and the Vale competing.

Three out of our four teams were successful in securing a place in the Welsh finals on Monday, November 25. The senior boys took the top spot, while both junior teams placed in the bronze medal position.

An excellent day for Llantwit Major school and gymnastics in the local community. A special thank you to Vale



The gymnastics team.

Gymnastics who have been helping out with school gymnastics, funded through 5x60. Well done to all competitors and we look forward to finals!

Year 7: Hollie England Rees, Daisy Cresswell, Jessica Fitzpatrick, Cerys West; Dylan Kinson, Leighton Pawsey, Morgan Thomas, Harri Morgan.

Year 8/9: Anya Trudgian, Caitlin Dolman, Nicole Allinson, Ellie Aspell; Max Greeves, Kyle Cates, Ben Burrows.

Please follow the PE department results and information on Twitter: @llantwitPE



Action from the event.

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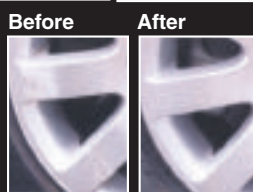
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THE LLANTWIT MAJOR JUNIOR RUGBY ROUND-UP

LLANTWIT MAJOR under-8s travelled to Bryncethin on Sunday; the team for the matches was Braydan, Brandon, Corey, Rhys, James, Marcus, Thomas L, Thomas G, Owen, Carwyn and Kian.

The boys played three 10 minute matches: the first match they drew 3-3, and try scorers were Braydan, Rhys, and Thomas L. The second match the score was 2-2, with tries scored by Braydan and the third match they lost 2-1, with a try scored by Thomas L.

The boys played outstandingly there was some fantastic tagging and passing as well as some great defence. Man of the match was Thomas George; keep it up boys

you played some great rugby!

BYRNCETHIN UNDER-12S 17, LLANTWIT MAJOR UNDER-12S 5

These two teams played out a tough encounter as both played some entertaining rugby on a wet Sunday morning.

Looking to build on recent good form Llantwit showed some early enterprise creating good scoring opportunities. White line fever got the better of the Llantwit players however and they were guilty of wasting some excellently worked overlaps.

Bryncethin seized the opportunity to punish Llantwit when the defence fell asleep at a lineout and a big gap at the front got filled by a Bryncethin try scorer.

Like a good boxing match both teams then tried to outwit each other but the defences were winning the day. On 13 minutes Llantwit failed to react to a quick penalty and Bryncethin spread it wide to find the gap in the defence. The conversion followed and Bryncethin held a 12-0 halftime lead.

The second half saw defences dominate as both teams lunged everything at each other trying to find gaps. It was Llantwit that buckled first and Bryncethin pressure saw them turn over on the Llantwit 22 and run in an easy try.

With only five minutes left Llantwit found themselves 17-0 down and they finally spread the ball wide giving full back Morgan Jenkins room on the outside.

With lots still to do, Jenkins outpaced the cover defence to grab

Llantwit's only try. Llantwit finished strongly and could have got another try at the death but time was against them and the game finished 17-5.

A good performance by Llantwit Major following two heavy defeats to the same opposition last season.

RUGBY BOYS TACKLE NETBALLERS

Sunday, November 24, sees the pride of LMRFC under-16s take on their netball counterparts from Llantwit Major Netball Club in what promises to be a keenly fought contest.

The boys are taking on the ladies at their own game in what promises to be a clash of 'Brawn versus Beauty'.

The boys are raising funds for their tour to northern Spain in February and the netball game is the latest of a

series of fund-raising events for the team.

Both coaching teams are working hard on mind games in the build up to the match. The game will be a measure of the depths the coaches are willing to sink to in an effort to undermine the confidence of the opposition.

The rugby team are promising to bring their physical dominance and height advantage to the court, while the netball ladies feel that their superior knowledge of the game will be the deciding factor.

The game kicks off at 3pm at Llantwit Major Leisure Centre and admission is only £1. There will be a raffle and cakes on sale.

All funds raised will be shared between the rugby tour fund and the ladies of Llantwit Netball Club.



Legends evening at Pencoed RFC



A packed Pencoed RFC enjoyed a special evening with special guests Dan Lydiate and referee Nigel Owens.

The night was compered by Scrum V's Rick O'Shea, and the club were also unexpectedly honoured by the presence of former British Lion John O'Shea and dual code international Allan Bateman; for more photos from the evening visit juliehancock.org.

The next event for Pencoed RFC is a craft fair on November 23 at the club.

JH

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Bridgend bridge club

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:

Wednesday, November 13 was a charity night for Children in Need. Results: first J Dave Barwood and Wendy Williams, second Joan Jenkins and Mike Best, third Marjorie Morris and Bill Turner. The best placed improvers for Thursday, November 14, were Diana Chinn Teresa Griffiths and Janet James.

In addition to the regular club

nights on Wednesdays and Fridays at Nolton Church Hall at 7pm, to which all bridge players are welcome, on Thursdays from 2pm until 5pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there are gentle bridge sessions primarily for the less experienced and where assistance is available.

Lessons for improvers also take place on a Thursday afternoon to register an interest please contact Steve Burgoyne (01656 661968) or John Evans (01656 880372), either of whom will welcome your call. DN

PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK

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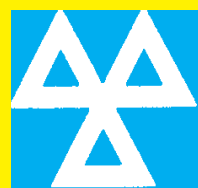


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- 58 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 SXi Coupe. In black, 63,000 miles, 2 owners, very attractive at **£5,495**
- 08 DODGE Caliber 2.0 SXT Auto. In black, 27,000 miles, leather heated seats etc. **£5,495**
- 59 PEUGEOT 207 'S' 1.4 5-Dr. In silver, 32,000 miles, a/c etc **£5,295**
- 59 FORD Ka 1.2 Style+ In ice blue, 43,000 miles, £30 road tax, low insurance **£4,995**
- 08 FIESTA 1.4 Zetec Blue 5-dr. In black, 61,000 miles, a/c, alloys etc **£4,995**
- 58 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Club 3-dr. In black, 53,000 miles, low insurance **£4,695**
- 08 VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 Breeze Automatic. In black, low mileage, 1 owner **Reduced by £300 to £4,695**
- 57 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 Design Coupe. In met silver, 50,000 miles. Stylish hatch **Reduced to £4,695**
- 04 MERCEDES C200 Diesel Avantgarde SE Auto. In light met blue, 89,000 miles **£4,695**
- 57 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Club 3-Dr. In silver, 54,000 miles, low insurance **£4,495**
- 07 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Club 5-Dr. In Met Blue, 44,000 miles, with A/C, 2 owners **£4,495**
- 06 SAAB 93 Convertible (Linear 150) In black with cream leather, 52,000 miles. Winter Price **£4,995**
- 54 JAGUAR X-Type 2.0 Diesel SE Estate. In met grey with grey leather heated seats, 83,000 miles **£4,495**
- 04 MINI Cooper (Pepper). In met blue, 68,000 miles, 1 owner with a/c, very nice example **£4,495**
- 53 MINI One Automatic. In silver, 66,000 miles, with leather trim, panoramic roof etc **£4,495**
- 07 FORD Fiesta Ghia 1.4 TDCi 5-dr. In black, low mileage diesel, with leather **£4,795**
- 59 CHEVROLET Matiz SE (new model). In met orange, 18,000 miles with a/c **£3,995**
- 08 MAZDA 2 1.4 TS2 3-dr. In red, nice bright local car at **£3,995**
- 57 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 SXi 3-dr. In silver, low insurance with a/c, alloys, CD **£3,995**
- 57 FORD Focus 1.6 Style 5-dr. In met blue, 67,000 miles with a/c **Reduced to £3,995**
- 57 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 M Play 3-Dr. In red, 61,000 miles, low insurance **£3,995**
- 57 MAZDA 6 TS2 2.0 Diesel (143) In pacific blue, 68,000 miles, 1 owner **£3,995**
- 56 TOYOTA Yaris T3 1.3 3-Dr. In black, 50,000 miles, with alloys **£3,995**
- 02 MERCEDES C200 Diesel Sport Coupe Automatic. In Silver, 74,000 miles, local car **£3,995**
- 05 FORD Fiesta 2.0 St. In red, 55,000 miles, 2 owners, nice example at **£3,995**
- 07 CITROEN C2 Cool 1.4 In black, 32,000 miles, low insurance, bluetooth etc **£3,695**
- 03 LEXUS IS200 SE Automatic. In black, 62,000 miles, 2 owners very nice example at **£3,695**
- 06 MAZDA 3 TS 1.6 4-dr. In met grey, 40,000 miles, 2 owners, Stylish family saloon **£3,495**
- 05 RENAULT Megane 1.9 Diesel Convertible Dynamique In black, 50,000 miles with a/c **£3,495**
- 08 SMART FourTwo. In white (new shape), £30 road tax, low insurance **£3,295**
- 55 SKODA Fabia 1.4 Elegance. In black, 21,000 miles, 1 owner, fantastic value at **£3,295**
- 06 MAZDA 2 Antares 1.4 5-dr. In silver, 56,000 miles **£2,995**
- 06 MAZDA 6 TS 2.0 5-Dr. In met blue, 74,000 miles, 2 owners **£2,995**
- 06 RENAULT Clio 1.6 Dynamique 5-dr. In black (new shape), 71,000 miles **£2,995**
- 55 MITSUBISHI Colt 1.5 Sport 5-dr. In black, 71,000 mls **£2,995**
- 54 TOYOTA Corolla 1.6 T3 VVTi 3-dr. In silver, 78,000 miles. Stylish hatch **Reduced to £2,995**
- 04 SAAB 93 Aero 210 BHP. In black, 77,000 miles, very nice example at **£2,995**
- 04 VAUXHALL Meriva 1.7 Diesel Enjoy In silver, 62,000 miles **£2,995**
- 04 SUZUKI Wagon R 1.3 GL+. In met blue, 31,000 miles, 2 owners **£2,995**
- 53 SMART City Passion Convertible Auto. Red/silver, 39,000 miles, 1 owner, FSH **£2,995**
- 03 FORD Fusion '3' 1.6 In black, 18,000 miles, 1 local owner, with extras **£2,995**
- 52 JAGUAR X-Type 2.5 SE 4WD Auto. In ice blue with grey leather, 64,000 miles **£2,995**
- 55 CITROEN C4 1.4VT Coupe In black, 58,000 miles, low running costs **£2,795**
- 53 FORD Fiesta Ghia 1.4 5-Dr. In silver birch, 76,000 miles **£2,795**
- 05 RENAULT Clio 1.4 Expression Auto 5-dr. In met red, 56,000 miles **£2,695**
- 04 SUZUKI Ignis 1.5 Sport. In silver, 66,000 miles with Racaro seats, white alloys etc **£2,495**
- 53 SMART City Passion 700CL Auto. In met pink/silver, 54,000 miles, nice example at **£2,495**
- 52 FIESTA 1.3 LX 5-Dr. In met blue, 56,000 miles, 2 local owners, low insurance **£2,495**
- 52 FORD Fiesta 1.3 Finess 5-dr. In red, 63,000 miles, 1 local owner, low insurance **£1,995**
- 03 SKODA Fabia 1.4 16v Elegance 5-dr. In met blue with a/c, heated seats etc **Reduced to £1,695**



06 SAAB 93 Convertible (Linear 150)
In black with cream leather 52,000 miles
£4,995



09 HYUNDAI 2.0 Coupe S111
Black Leather, 47,000 Miles
£6,995



60 FORD Ka 1.4 Diesel Zetec
Bright met blue, 29,000 miles, 1 owner, fantastic mpg
£6,795



04 MERCEDES C200 Diesel
Light met blue, 89,000 miles
£4,695



COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS ROUND-UP

Success for year-8 netballers



Cross Country League.

THE Year-8A and B netball team played against Llantwit Major.

Both the A and B team were victorious with the A team winning 16-1 and the B team winning 11-5. Player of the match for the A team was goal attack Jordan Meek and the B team also goal attack Olivia Mitchell.

A Team: Meriel Clode, Elin Swallow, Sarah Jones, Tirion Evans, Emily Jenkins, Mali Howell, Jordan Meek and Sophie Rees.

B Team: Molly Ward-Tossell, Paige Fox, Freya Evans, Rachel Ainsley, Ashling Thomas, Jessica Wadey, Catherine Harrison, Olivia Mitchell.

Hockey

YEAR-7 played their first hockey match against Y Pant at home. The girls played two 7 a side games and the two teams won both their matches in style, team one winning 11-0 and 3-0 and team two winning 3-1 and 4-0.

Well done to all the girls who took part, especially to Beth Edwards and Ella Jones who were players of the match.

YEAR-9 played against Brynteg.

The first half was very rushed and mistakes were made, and Brynteg stayed in Cowbridge's defending circle for much of the first half. Pippa Jolles, player of the match, did well in sweeping the ball out of defence many times.

First time keeper, Amy Williams, saved some excellent attempts at goal by Brynteg. Sophie Oddy, Hannah Sloan and Selina Radcliffe all played well in

attack and midfield when Cowbridge did have possession.

At half time, the score was 0-0. In the second half, the girls settled into the game. Penny Weir went back into defence and cleared some great balls into midfield.

Claudia Esquirol also made some good attacking passes.

Brynteg did manage to score a well-deserved goal and the game ended 1-0 Brynteg. Other players were Arian Webb, Bethan Frost, Gwennan Potter, Laine Morgan, Molly Gambling, Sian Prichard and Esme Freeman.

Football

THE year-7 football team played Mary Immaculate High School recently, and after their 7-0 victory over St Richard Gwyn in the previous game, confidence was high.

This confidence was short lived and after five minutes, Cowbridge were 3-0 down. Due to a few mistakes at the back, MIHS took full advantage and made Cowbridge play.

After 10 minutes, Cowbridge settled into their stride and began to play the style of football we have become accustomed to. The first Cowbridge goal came about by some great play from Cowbridge, which led to Charlie Carr turning the ball in for a well-deserved goal.

Cowbridge were now starting to show their class, but were still finding it difficult to break the final line of defence, but their second goal came from a goal line scramble and a bit of luck. Ed Thomas managed to chest the ball past the goalkeeper and Cowbridge were now back in the running.

Cowbridge continued to press in the dying embers of the first half, and managed to sneak in a goal as Ed Thomas used his blistering pace up the wing, to supply Will Marsden with the ball on the edge of the 18 yard box. Without a hesitation, Will smashed the ball into the bottom left corner for an excellently taken goal!

Not long after the goal, the end of the half was signalled by the referee, and what a half of football it had been. It had been filled with everything from goals, to mistakes, to hard tackles and skilful play.

The second half began with the scores level. Cowbridge had worked their way back from 3-0



Year-7 Hockey against Y Pant.

down, so surely could not lose it from here. The game started in a very nip and tuck fashion, both teams creating chances, but both teams struggling to put them away.

The first goal of the half came from Matt Oddy, who calmly slotted the ball past the keeper to give Cowbridge the lead.

The lead lasted a whole of 5 minutes, with MIHS not letting Cowbridge take this game from their grasp. Both teams were looking for the crucial winning goal, and were looking for someone to provide a moment of magic.

This man was Matt Oddy, who stepped up to take a free kick 25 metres out, and the ball flew into the top corner for a magnificent goal.

With such a close game now going their way, and coming back from the brink of defeat, Cowbridge managed to hold off a valiant effort in the last minutes of the game to record their second win of the year. Well done boys.

Players of the match: Matt Oddy, Jake Thomas and Ed Thomas.

Cross Country Cardiff and Vale League 2

RECENTLY, Cowbridge Comprehensive School attended the second Cardiff and Vale Cross-country league fixture 2.

With the year-7s doing extremely well in the first fixture, and finishing in overall second place, they were looking to go a step further. With it being the second league fixture, distances had increased slightly, so it was going to be a stern test for the boys.

In the year-7 race, the results were as follows: Jack Tudor = 1st; Will O'Connor = 6th; Ben Batten = 11th; Iestyn Galton = 12th; Morgan Hestleton = 21st; Ethan White = 33rd; Rhys Wardhaugh = 58th; Oliver Wong = 59th; Adam Durrant = 75th; Isaac Bennett = 76th; Jamie Evans = 108th.

Overall the boys finished first, and are also now top of the team leader board.

In the year-8 and 9 races, the results were as follows: Rowan Allin = 8th; Rhys Bradshaw = 24th; Tom Wright = 48th; Logan Roach 49th.

Overall, the year-8 and 9 team are currently ninth.

In the senior's race, the results were as follows: Alex Love = 67th; Luke Jeffreys = 77th; Dewi Bennett = 78th; Ieuan Rideout = 80th; Carl Ham = 81st.

Overall, the seniors team are currently eighth.

Well done all teams, the conditions on the day were difficult, but you all tried your hardest and produced some outstanding performances. Well done again!

Rugby

THE successful year-11 rugby team ventured fur-

ther afield than their usual Vale fixtures to play one of Britain's elite sports schools, Millfield.

The team were fortunate enough to play on the school's Jubilee Field, and the occasion produced a truly spectacular game.

In what was an extremely physical confrontation, Cowbridge used their dominance up front on numerous occasions with Ed Couzens crossing for the first try after some great phase play by the backline, converted by Tom Lucas from the touchline.

Conceding almost immediately after scoring, it was late in the first half when centre Rian Thomas gliding through the Millfield backline to cross under the posts, again converted by talented outside half Tom Lucas.

The second half was again a very high tempo game with both sides cancelling each other out and with the clock ticking down, Craig Boxall forced his way over the line after a sustained period of pressure by the pack, converted by Tom Lucas.

The score finished Cowbridge 28, Millfield 22.

TIM WINS BIG RACE

ABERTHIN'S Tim Vaughan landed the feature race at Huntingdon on Tuesday with his seven-year-old mare Hidden Identity, which won the £25,000 William Hill The Jumps Michaelmas Hurdle.

A 10-1 chance, *Hidden Identity*, which scored by two-and-three-quarter lengths from *Zuider Zee*, was ridden by Richard Johnson, who said: "I think she really enjoys testing conditions. She loved it at Chepstow and Tim and myself were a bit worried coming here as it is a much sharper track."

"We thought it might not be enough of a test. It's very likely that her stamina won her the race," he added. *Hidden Identity* was a winner at Chepstow a month ago and was the only one of the seven runners in the race which had won on their previous outing.

EASY WIN FOR OSCARS DEN

Oscars Den, a five-year-old bay gelding trained at Aberthryn by Tim Vaughan, was an easy winner of the opener at Uttoxeter last Saturday.

Racing for the first time in 291 days, *Oscars Den*, the 11-4 joint favourite, ran out a six lengths winner of the Marston's Pedigree Novices' Hurdle under 3lb claiming jockey Michael Byrne.

BRIAN LEE

Cowbridge darts league

ON Tuesday, November 12, it was the turn of the Hare and Hounds to play Llanharry, the league leaders, in a match that was closer than the score implies; Llanharry won 8-1.

In fact it was a night of high-scoring wins. Edmondson C beat the Old Post Ladies and the Cross Inn defeated the Star Inn, also 8-1.

Edmondson B beat the Farmers Arms 7-2 and the Highwayman Inn won 6-3 against the Edmondson A.

Also it was a night of some excellent personal performances; Trevor Morgan (Edmondson A) and Victor John (Llanharry) each hit a 180 and Simon Reader (Hare and Hounds) hit a 116, three-dart-out, equalling the present best performance.

Present league standings, after three matches, are: Llanharry (47 points), Edmondson B

(40), Edmondson C (36), Hare and Hounds (27), Highwayman Inn (26), Edmondson A, Farmers Arms and Cross Inn (25), Old Post Ladies (9), The Star Inn (1).

Next Tuesday, November 26, there is a full schedule of league matches - the Star Inn hosts the Farmers Arms, Llanharry hosts the Cross Inn, the Edmondson A hosts the Old Post Ladies and the Hare and Hounds hosts the Highwayman Inn. In a key match the two teams chasing Llanharry, the Edmondson C and the Edmondson B, play each other.

Note that all teams can register new players until the New Year, so if you wish to play darts this season get in touch.

For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridge-darts@gmail.com; up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

Mike comes out on top!



ABOVE: Mike Sollis Trophy winner Philemon Williams (left) and the colourful runner-up, John Campbell.

THE final game of the year for the Blacksmiths Golf Society saw Philemon Williams and Geoff Smith both score 37 points, with Williams winning the stableford competition courtesy of a back nine countback.

Smith won nearest the hole with Mike Stephens hitting the longest drive. Williams won the Mike Sollis trophy for best average score for the season from his Southerndown colleague John Campbell.

CG

Bowls AGM

LLANTWIT MAJOR bowls club are holding their ladies and gents AGM on Thursday, November 28 at the Bowls pavilion at 7pm.

In order that we have enough members at the AGM to make it legal, please make every effort to attend.

Mixed fortunes for under-14s

LLANTWIT MAJOR under-14s completed a run of games against the other top teams in the league by welcoming Cadoxton A to Windmill Lane.

The first half was very tight with both teams evenly matched; chances were few and far between and the teams went in at halftime at 0-0.

The second half saw Cadoxton dominate possession and Llantwit doing their best to hit them on the break. The majority of chances were falling to the visitors and man of the match Joe Baker had to be at his best to keep an increasingly dominant Cadoxton out.

Joe pulled off save after save but was eventually beaten by a great finish into the top corner. Cadoxton were lifted by the goal and were happy to see their lead doubled when confusion in the

box allowed a hopeful cross to bounce high into the corner of the net. The final score was 2-0 to Cadoxton, who go to the top of the league.

Barry Celts were the next visitors to Windmill Lane and found Llantwit determined to put their previous loss behind them. The home team completely dominated the game in terms of possession and territory, but spurned many chances to rack up goals in the first half.

In the first two minutes Morgan Gore was put clean through on the goalkeeper by a defence splitting pass by Luke Beattie, but failed to beat the keeper.

Moses Gee finally broke the deadlock at the end of a goal-mouth scramble which saw the ball cross the line via the crossbar, the keeper and, eventually, Mo's shoulder!

Penalty expert Cole Baker then

crashed a spotkick against the bar after Mo Gee was fouled and the home team couldn't believe that they went in at halftime only 1-0 up.

Llantwit got the goals they deserved in the second half mainly due to some hard work in midfield from Laurence Bowman and Cole Baker, with Angus Mitchell also dropping back to help out.

The first came after a corner was cleared to the edge of the box and man of the match Ben Boyd fired into the corner of the net with his left foot.

Lewis Brown then moved into centre midfield and Ben Boyd to left midfield and this changed the game, with Lewis influencing the game with every touch and Ben providing real threat down the left, scoring a hatrick in the process to cap a fine performance; Cole Baker found the back of the net to complete the 5-0 win.

MB



GEM sport

GATLAND GAMBLE PAYS OFF, AS YOUNG ONES GET THE MESSAGE: Clinical Wales pulverize Pumas - and get monkey off their back

BACK PAGE COMMENT

by Don John

"Necessity is the mother of invention"
(ascribed to Plato, b circa 428 BC)

A YEAR ago, a Wales side still basking in the glow of a third Grand Slam, went into the opening clash of the 2012 autumn series against Argentina in Cardiff, quietly confident of maintaining momentum with what they hoped would be the first of four, long-sought southern hemisphere scalps.

In the event, those hopes were trampled underfoot by a ram-paging Puma pack which laid the basis for a 26-12 victory, that if, anything, was even more convincing than the final score line suggested.

Not that this should have come as a major surprise, given the rapid advance made in recent years by fiercely-competitive, rugged Argentines who can no longer be dismissed as all beef and no finesse.

Moreover, despite the fact that Wales had won nine of the previous 14 meetings to Argentina's five since they first met in 1991, they have generally been close-fought, high-scoring affairs - with Wales having accumulated 388 points to Argentina's 344.

Little wonder that despite the optimistic sounds emanating in the build-up to Saturday's game at the Millennium Stadium, from a Welsh camp hard hit by an ever-lengthening injury list, and under pressure to avoid a repeat of the result that sparked last

autumn's whitewash, there were no illusions as to the scale of the physical challenge ahead.

Head coach Warren Gatland responded by making two expected changes in the starting line-up - Ospreys' out-side half Dan Biggar and open-side flanker Justin Tipuric - but true to form, sprang two surprises.

'Necessity is the mother of invention' fits the shrewd Kiwi's calculated risk-taking like a glove - he not only drafted in two raw youngsters from the fringe, but played them out of position: Blues' No 12 debutant Cory Allen (aged 20) replaced the injured Jonathan Davies at outside centre, while young loose-head prop Rhodri Jones (21) moved across to face the expected Puma onslaught in place of injured tight-head Adam Jones.

(Moreover, the young Scarlet's 20-year-old regional team mate, prop Samson Lee, was also making his international debut on the bench.)

Gatland explained it thus: "We have made a number of changes due to injury, but it's a great opportunity for players we have been very impressed with. For Cory, it will be his first taste of international rugby - and for Rhodri, a chance to gain more experience."

In an oblique reference to missed opportunities in the 24-15 loss to South Africa the previous week, Gatland added: "We have been working hard to ensure we convert the chances we create and encourage the players to look for and exploit opportunities and space."

Even so, who could have forecast the



LEFT: Man-of-the-match Toby Faletau crosses for a try that capped an impressive display, while Mike Phillips (right) opened the scoring as Wales won their first Autumn international in nearly four years!



PICTURES BY HUW EVANS AGENCY.

exhilarating way in which the reshuffled Wales team would repay his faith - in some style - shrugging off the psychological weight of past autumn defeats to administer a comprehensive 40-6 drubbing, including four sharply-taken tries, to which the strangely disordered Pumas had no answer.

"It was nice to get that monkey off our backs!" said skipper Sam Warburton with feeling.

The call for this talented group of players to be more ruthless and clinical had clearly been heeded. Welsh teams, unlike the southern hemisphere giants, have all too often been guilty of taking their foot off the pedal after taking a substantial lead... Not so on this occasion!

In an exciting opening quarter, Wales raced into a 23-0 lead - Leigh Halfpenny opening his account within four minutes with a penalty - followed three minutes later by a jubilant Mike Phillips running from deep inside his own half for a fine solo try under the posts, converted by Halfpenny. On this showing, the currently 'unattached' scrum half will have attracted plenty of interest from prospective new employers!

Argentina were desperately striving for continuity, without

really threatening the rock-like Welsh line; and having stemmed one attack, were awarded a penalty after Justin Tipuric was penalized and sent to the sin bin. The attempted kick, however, hit an upright, while, in contrast, Halfpenny made no mistake with a penalty that made the score 13-0.

The gap was widened by an impressive Welsh move straight off the training ground. From a lineup, Phillips slipped an adroit inside pass to George North, who broke through the bewildered defence for another try under the posts, easily converted by Halfpenny.

After Argentina finally hit back with a successful penalty by Nicolas Sanchez, the closing minutes of the first half saw them again under siege - Halfpenny punishing them with a further penalty to make the halftime score 23-3 - and seemingly no way back for the outplayed Pumas.

And, indeed, that proved to be the case, for this time the opposition were not to be let off the hook, as has happened so many times in the past, and Gatland's gamble on the young guns was fully vindicated.

The second half began, as had the first, with a penalty by Halfpenny after Wales

had survived an injury scare involving North, but then came a period of Puma pressure as Argentina fought back with a second penalty (and what was to be their final score) by Sanchez.

Just to prove that he is not quite infallible, Halfpenny misdirected another penalty attempt - but it didn't really matter, for rampant Wales were not yet done! Man-of-the-match No 8 Toby Faletau rounded off another textbook handling move involving forwards and backs with a third try, which Halfpenny had no trouble converting.

As the game drew to a close Welsh substitutes poured off the bench, anxious to play a part in a rare victory over a southern hemisphere side, albeit not one of the top three.

There was still time, though, for the Welsh pack to confirm its ascendancy over the vaunted Pumas eight when replacement hooker Ken Owens crashed over for their fourth try, converted by Halfpenny (who else?).

After two bruising southern hemisphere encounters, the third autumn clash comes tomorrow evening (Friday) against a team further down the world pecking order, the tough-tackling Tongans. Wales will need to keep their guard up - in more ways than one - even

though they have won all six of the previous encounters.

There can be no room for complacency, as the 'Sea Eagles' are more than capable of springing a surprise - ask France, beaten 19-14 in the 2011 Rugby World Cup - and Scotland, defeated 16-21 last year.

However, despite the continuing injury toll that will again put Plato's dictum - 'necessity is the mother of invention' - to the test, this is a game that Wales can go into with confidence, as they look to build on Saturday's impressive win and pursue the long-term goal of ruthless consistency.

Welsh followers are right to celebrate the manner of the victory - but must beware of getting carried away by all the media-led euphoria, for a much greater challenge awaits next week.

The Australians are coming... bent on revenge for that Lions test series defeat, and showing by the way they disposed of sorry Ireland on Saturday, that they will pose a potent threat.

No-one more than Gatland appreciates that one swallow does not make a summer (or an autumn) - hence his restrained post-match comment on Saturday that he was "reasonably satisfied" - his gaze is fixed on wider horizons.

WALES team v



ABOVE: Sam Warburton was the victorious captain on Saturday - he'll be rested on Friday night, but will he be back to lead Wales to victory over Australia on Saturday week?

Tonga: Leigh Halfpenny (Cardiff Blues); George North (Northampton Saints); Owen Williams (Cardiff Blues); Ashley Beck (Ospreys); Hallam Amos (Newport Gwent Dragons); James Hook (Perpignan); Lloyd Williams (Cardiff Blues); Paul James (Bath); Ken Owens (Scarlets); Rhodri Jones (Scarlets); Luke Charteris (Perpignan); Ian Evans (Ospreys);

Andrew Coombs (Dragons); Justin Tipuric (Ospreys); Ryan Jones (Ospreys - captain). Replacements: Emyr Phillips (Scarlets); Ryan Bevington (Ospreys); Samson Lee (Scarlets); Dan Lydiate (Racing Metro); Sam Warburton (Cardiff Blues); Rhodri Williams (Scarlets); Rhys Priestland (Scarlets); Jordan Williams (Scarlets).